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Condor Survey
1963

Mileage and Hours

mileage and hours - Condor Survey - February 1963

	California Condor	Eben McMillan	February 1963
February 6 - 1963	To Fillmore and Percy Ranch		
" 7 "	Return to Cholame from Fillmore		447 miles - 2 days
February 11, 1963	To Shandon to meet Ian for Santa Barbara trip		
February 12 - ¹⁹⁶³ 1964	Drove to Jene Rambo Ranch north of Cholame & return		
February 18 - 1963	From Gai to Cholame,		162 miles - 1 day
" 19 - "	To Fresno - Dunlap - Visalia - Woody - home -		311 " - 1 day
" 22 - "	To Navajo Ridge - La Panza Ranch - home		77 " - 1 day

Mileage and days

	california condor	Eben McMillan	March 1963
March 4 th & 5 - 1963	Shandon - Navajo - San Juan River - La Panza - Home -	142 miles - 2 days	
" 7 - "	To Berkeley - San Francisco and Home -	519 " - 1 day	
" 8 - "	To Gene Rambo Ranch and Spring Ranch - - - -	38 " - 1 day	
" 13 - "	To Navajo Ridge and San Juan River - - - - -	71 " - 1 day	
" / - "	To Navajo Canyon area and home - - - - -	90 " - 1 day	
" 14 - "	" " " " " " - - - - -	72 " - 1 day	
" 20 - "	" " " " " " - - - - -	89 " - 1 day	
" 21-22 - "	To Fresno - O'Neils - Three Rivers - Springville -		
- - - - -	Woody - Lost Hills - and home - - - - -	337 miles - 2 days	
" - 25 - 1963	To Navajo Canyon - San Juan River - La Panza and Home	95 " - 1 day	
" - 26 - 27 - 1963	To Famosa - Poso Creek - Woody and return home -	253 " - 2 days	
March 29 - 1963	To Famosa - Bakersfield and Home - - - - -	242 " - 1 day	

Mileage and days

California Condor Eben McMillan

April 1963

April 3 - 1963

To Beartrap Rocks and Return home - - - - - 78 miles - 1 day

May 22-23-24 - 1963

To Blackwell's Corner - Coyama Valley - Fillmore -

Cow Springs - Ventura - Santa Barbara - Paso Robles & home - ⁴³⁶~~456~~ miles - 3 days

May 31 - 1963

To Navajo Ridge - San Juan River and return

77 miles - 1 day

mileage and days in field

	California Condor	Eben McMillan	June 1963
June 1 - - - - 1963	To Navajo - San Juan River and return home - - - 68 miles - 1 day		
June 2 - - - 1963	To San Juan River - La Panza and return home - - - - 71 " - 1 day		
June 4-5-6 - 1963	To Ojai - Fillmore - Castaic Jct - Lebec - Frazier Park - Cuddy Valley - Cuyama Valley - Elk Horn Valley - Carrisa plains and return home - - - 453 miles - 3 days		
June 12-13 - 1963	Castaic Jct. - Los Angeles - Fillmore - Santa Barbara - 591 miles - 2 days and return home -		
June 14-15-16 - 1963	To Lebec - Liebre Mt - Lancaster - Rosamond - Jehachapi - Cummings Valley - Arvin - Tejon Ranch - Grapevine - Maricopa and return home - - - - 564 miles - 3 days		
June 18 - 1963	Fillmore - Simi - Castaic Jct. - Hungry Valley and return home - 60 miles - 1 day		
June 19 - 1963	To La Panza and Carrisa plains and return home - - 91 miles - 1 day		
June 26 - 1963	Rinole Ranch - Old Canyon - San Juan - Navajo and return home ⁸⁷ 87 miles - 1 day		
June 26 ²⁷ - 1963	To Navajo - via San Juan - La Panza area and return home 73 miles - 1 day		
June 28 - 1963	To Navajo via Carrisa plains and San Juan and return home 87 miles - 1 day		
June 29 - 1963	To San Juan River and La Panza - via Carrisa plains and return home - 63 miles - 1 day		

Mileage and days in field

	California Condor	Eben McMillan	July 1963
1 - 1963	To San Juan River - La Panza and return home - - - -		67 miles - 1 day
2 - - - 1963	To Cholame Flats area and return home - - -		36 miles - 1 day
3 and 4 - 1963	To Bakersfield - Tehachapi - Breckenridge Mountain - Isabella - Woody - and return home - - - -		407 miles - 2 days
6 - 1963	To Cholame Flats area and return home - - - -		51 miles - 1 day
7 - - 1963	" " " " " " " " - - - -		78 miles - 1 day
8 - 1963	To Cholame Flats - Parkfield - Turkey Flats - Hancock Ranch and return home - - - -		71 miles - 1 day
9 - 1963	To Cholame Flats and Gene Rambo Ranch and return home - -		55 miles - 1 day
July 10 and 11 1963	To Granite Station - Oak Flat Lookout - Glennville and return home via Granite Station - - - - -		286 miles - 2 days
July 13 - 1963	To Cholame Flats area and return home - - - -		40 miles - 1 day
July 15 and 16 - 1963	To Tehachapi and Arvin and return home - - - -		417 miles - 2 days
July 17 - 1963	To Cholame Flats area and return home - - - -		51 miles - 1 day
July 18 - 1963	" " " " " " " " - - - -		44 miles - 1 day
July 19 - 1963	To Pinole Ranch - La Panza Ranch - Beartrap Canyon - Shell Creek and return home - - - - -		96 miles - 1 day
July 24-25-26 - 1963	To Bakersfield - Tehachapi - Antelope Valley - Caliente Creek and return home - - - - -		505 miles - 3 days
July 31 - 1963	To La Panza - Beartrap Canyon and return home -		74 miles - 1 day

Mileage and days in field

California condor

Phen McMillan

August 1963

- August 1 - 1963 To Lebec, Tejon Ranch and return home - - - 255 miles - 1 day
- August 2-3-4 - 1963 To Lockwood Valley - Frazier Mountain - Mt. Pinos -
- - - and return home - - - - - 324 miles - 3 days
- August 8-9 - 1963 To Bakersfield - Tehachapi - Caliente Wash -
Oak Flat Lookout - Granite Station and home - 482 miles - 2 days
- August 11 - 1963 To Carrisa plains and return home - - - 88 miles - 1 day
- August 13-14-15 - 1963 To Woody - Glennville - Granite Station and home - 260 miles - 3 days
- August 18 - 1963 To Cholame Flats and return home - - - - 53 miles - 1 day
- August 1-22 - 1963 Bakersfield - Arvin - Lebec - Frazier Mt. -
- - - - Gorman - Nenach - Tehachapi - and return home - 441 miles - 3 days
- August 25-27 - 1963 To Cholame Flats - Spring Ranch and return home - 43 miles - 1 day
- August 28-29 - 1963 To Bakersfield - White Wolf - Greenhorn Mountain -
Kernville - Glennville - and return home - - - 424 miles - 2 days

Mileage and days spent in field

	California Condor	Eben McMillan	September 1963
September 9-10-11-1963	To Glennville - California Hot Springs - Blue Ridge Lookout - Porterville - Springville and return home -		376 miles - 3 days
September 12-1963	To Glennville and return home — — —		207 miles - 1 day
September 16 — 1963	Castaic Jct. - Frazier Mt. - Lebec - and return home —		90 miles - 1 day
September 17-18-19-1963	To Glennville - Granite Station - Bakersfield - — — — — Edison and return home — — — — —		340 miles - 3 days
September 21-1963	To Fillmore - Cow Springs — — — — — — — — — —		100 miles - 1 day
September 23-1963	To Fillmore - Castaic Jct. - Lebec and return home — —		100 miles - 1 day
September 26-27-1963	To Docort - Exeter - Visalia - Fresno - Plant - and return home — — — — — — — — — —		441 miles - 2 days

mileage and Days in Field

California Condor Eber McMillan

1963
October ~~1964~~

ober-1-2 - ¹⁹⁶³~~1964~~ To Frazier Park - Tejon Ranch - Arvin

and return home - - - - - 431 miles - 2 days

per 9-10 - ¹⁹⁶³~~1961~~ To Woody - Glennville - Bakersfield & return home - 271 miles - 2 days

13 — " To Carissa plains - La Panza Ranch & return home --- 82 miles - 1 day

15 -- 15 To Hancock Ranch-Cholame flat & bet in home --- 53 miles - 1 day

16 -- " To Granite station & return home - - - 181 miles - 1 day

18-19 - ¹⁹⁶³~~1964~~ To Ventura-Santa Barbara & return home --- 401 miles - 2 days

1 22 - - ¹⁹⁶³~~1964~~ to Lanza - Carissa plains - Elkhorn valley

and return home - - - - - 154 miles - 1 day

October 24-25 - ¹⁹⁶³ ~~1964~~ To Famosa - Arvin - Lebec - Tejon Ranch

and return home - - - - - 380 miles - 2 days

to bet 28-29 - ~~1962~~¹⁹⁶³ To San Emigdio Ranch - Tejon Ranch - & return home - 374 miles - 2 days

29-30-¹⁹⁶³~~1964~~ To Springville - Tule Indian Reservation & return home - 290 miles - 2 days

Mileage and days in field-

california condor Eben McMillan November 1963

November 4-5-6-1963 To Tejon Ranch - Gorman - Bakersfield - Cantil - - - -

- - - - Tehachapi and return home - - - - 594 miles - 3 days

November 8 - - 1964 To Berkeley and return - - - - 493 miles - 1 day

November 25-26-1964 To Fillmore - Sespe Valley - Santa Barbara - - - -

- - - - and return home - - - - 456 miles - 2 days

Mileage and days in field

	California condor	Eben McMillan	December ¹⁹⁶³ 1968
September 3 - 1963	To Cholame Flats - - - - -		49 miles - 1 day
September 11-12 - 1963	To Granite Station - Tehachapi - Cantih - - - - -		
- - - - -	Rosamond - And return home - - - - -		481 miles - 2 days
September 18 - 1963	To Cholame Flats and return home - - -		47 miles - 1 day

Condor Survey
1963

Journal

McMillan-Eben

28. January 1963

I left for Berkeley, California at 9:10 A.M. with Ian McMillan, in his car, arriving at the home of Dr. Alden Miller, in Albany, Calif. at 5:15 P.M. After dinner in the Miller home a lengthy ~~was~~ discussion was held relative to the proposed census of the present population of California Condor and other pertinent information. Dr. Miller indicated his willingness to co-ordinate this study that is being conducted at the request of the National Audubon Society and financed by a grant from the National Geographic Society.

McMillan - Eben

29 January 1963

Jan and I spent the morning, and until 4:00 P.M., at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, in Berkeley, going over plans for the Condor Study that can be presented to Carl Buckheiser of National Audubon Society for his approval.

Our conclusions were, that Jan and myself would conduct the Condor census with Dr. Alden Miller, directing and coordinating its activities.

Matters of expenses, procedure, necessary information, equipment needed, and time and duration of the study were thoroughly discussed. We lunched with Dr. Miller and William Frances, a student at M.V.Z. on matters pertaining to Quail reproduction and weather.

Jan and I left Berkeley at 4:30 P.M. arriving home in Shandon at 12:30 A.M. after stopping for dinner at Don McMillan home in Hayward.

2. February-1963

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

2. February 1963

People

When in Ventura, California, this afternoon, I talked with David Mcmillan, who told of a fellow worker, who has worked for Texaco Oil Co., on South Mountain, Near Santa Paula, California for many years, that although in former years he used to see Condor quite frequently, that he has not seen one of these birds for several years.

8:00 P.m.

People

I called Eugene Percy, in Fillmore, from John Tatts home in Camarillo, California and arranged to meet Mr. Percy at his Hopper Canyon Ranch at 10:00 A.m. on February 6 after we stop to get the gate key to his ranch from his daughter at 332 D Street in Fillmore, California. Also called Sidney Peyton, of Fillmore and arranged to meet him at 3:00 P.m. the same day. I am to accompany me, they understand.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

24. Feb. 1963

People

I called Bruce Strathern who lives in Simi, Calif., from John Taft's home in Camarillo, arranging for both of us and him to meet him at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 1963, in order to talk over the matter of his helping in the observation of Condor in the Simi area.

It was very warm last night in the Santa Rosa Valley where John Taft lives and during the afternoon, today, the temperature rose to 89 degrees. A sultry wind blew most of the day from the Southeast.

Bruce Strathern stated that the recent rainfall, since Feb. 30, 1963, dropped one and one-half inches of rain in the Simi area - this being the first rain there since one-half inch of rain fell in late November, 1962. The total rainfall for the season to date there is only two inches.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

5 February 1963 The afternoon was spent preparing for the trip early tomorrow morning to Fillmore, Calif. The weather remains mild and calm. What wind blew today came from a westerly direction -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

6 February, 1963

Jan and I left for Fillmore at 5:00 A.M. going by way of Carissa Plains, Coyama Valley and Ojai, arriving there at 9:00 A.M.. We located the residence of Eugene Percy at 332-D. Street in Fillmore and received from him the key to a locked gate going to his Ranch in Hopper Canyon, as well as instructions how to get there. We then drove to the home of Mister Sidney Peyton, who also lives in Fillmore, and discussed Condor matters with him. Sid Peyton thinks Condors are holding their own in the Sespe-Hopper Canyon area, stating that he had observed 15 Condor lately in the Sespe area 5 of which were young - Eugene Percy does not think Condors are as plentiful now as in past years. Percy saw a flock of 20 Condors in late January of 1962 ^{feeding on dead cow on Hopper Mt.} This is the most he has observed in one flock for several years. He sees Condor quite often over his ranch property - a flock of 8 Condor he saw last week included two juvenile birds. We drove to mouth of Hopper Canyon, by 1:00 p.m., stopping there for lunch. We immediately saw one adult Condor circling above the west side of the Canyon opposite us. This Condor flew out of sight towards the west. Another adult Condor was soon seen circling over the center of the Canyon a bit to the west side and it flew out of sight up the main Canyon.

Condor

Sib Peyton

Percy

Condor - E Percy

Condor - E Percy

Condor - E & I m

E & I m

Condor -

At 1:40 p.m. we continued up the west

California condor

Eben McMillan

6 February 1963

E. McMillan

Est. m-
condor -

Food

branch of ~~Mr. Percy's~~ Hopper Canyon on road to Percy Ranch. Three adult Golden Eagles were dashing about, in the air, above high rock outcrops on right side of Canyon $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the main canyon. These Eagles were doing the usual undulating flight where they tower to a stalling point where the wings are closed and the bird tips over and dives downward for some 100 yards or so before righting itself and continue normal flight. We arrived at the Percy Ranch at 2:30 p.m. after passing through areas of open range that was badly overgrazed. While waiting for Mr. Percy to arrive we watched two Condor circling above his ranchouse, that is situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southeast of Hopper Mountain and is at about elevation.

Mr. Percy came from town in his Jeep at 3:00 p.m. soon after his coming he took us to the top of Hopper Mt. in his Jeep. We saw the carcasses of 3 dead cattle two of which he said Condor had fed on and one of which he had seen 8 Condor feeding on, two of which were young. High thin clouds were present throughout the day while the temperature remained quite warm even late in the evening, a fairly cool East wind was blowing when we topped Hopper Mt. at about 4:00 p.m. but this was not the case at lower levels. We stayed overnight at Percy ranch spending the evening discussing Condor history and present habits with Mr. Percy.

California Condor

Ben McMillan

7-February-1963

I can and I drove up above Percy home in pickup
 parking on ridge, overlooking his buildings, to
 the north. The morning was warm. Heavy smog was
 hanging throughout the lowlands and raised, or
 expanded as soon as the heat of the sun
 hit it. At about 8:30 A.M. a Golden Eagle
 was seen flying up the Hopper Canyon seeming
 to have come from the West Canyon slope below
 where the car sat. Upon investigation I found
 the remains of a New born Calf (white faced)
 that appeared to have been dead at birth or soon
 after as its nose was black and the hoofs
 showed no signs of ever having been in contact
 with the ground. This calf had been eaten on
 by predators. The ^{stomach} ~~stomach~~ cavity had been opened
 and all intestines taken as well as any meat
 available from this opening. The rib bones were
 not broken but had been stripped of any flesh. The
 head and neck and hind quarters were still
 intact. Tracks showed evidence of this carcass
 having been dragged downhill under some live
 oak trees. Large tracks like those of a big bird
 were about the carcass. I drove the calf carcass
 back up the ^{slope} ~~slope~~ about 200 ft. and left it
 in an opening on the ridge top and returned
 to the pickup ~~at~~ a mile above. At 8:45 one
 adult condor was noticed, well below me,
 working the air currents as it progressed
 up the Canyon towards the top of Hopper Mt.
 After about 10 minutes this condor made it out
 on top, a bit to the northeast of the Mt. Top,
 and after some circling was joined by another
 adult condor that came across from

Condor 8+241

California Condor

Eben McMillan

7 February 1963

the southeast. Both Condor circled briefly, and then disappeared over the ridge to the North. about 10 minutes later Three Condor appeared above the top of Hopper Mt. Two of which, after some circling came directly over me, circled a bit, then dropped down and circled over the area where the dead calf had been left. After circling there for a minute or two they ^{returned} ~~returned~~ to the top of Hopper Mt. where the remaining bird had been joined ^{by} Two other Condor, one of which was unmistakable as a juvenile bird, being dark of head with no bright white feathers under the wings. One bird of the five ~~that~~ ^{that} were above the Mt. top, now flew away to the west in the general area of Fillmore or a bit more westward. soon another ^{Condor} ~~bird~~ flew in from the Northward but continued on westward in the general direction taken by the other bird that flew that direction - soon a Condor returned from the west as did another from the North, making 6 Condor in sight at the same time one of which was a juvenile. There seemed ample evidence to state that at least 7 separate ^{Condor} were in the area of Hopper Mt. this morning - one of which was ~~was~~ a young bird. I thought he saw 8 separate Condor here one of which had a feather missing from the right wing about $\frac{1}{3}$ from the tip inward.

These Condor left towards the North. We drove to Fillmore, then to Simi where we talked with Bruce Strathern about recording Condor observations. to which he agreed to do. We then drove to Lebec and talked about access to Tejon Ranch with Mr. John Grixby, resident engineer at Tejon Ranch Co. Headquarters. a dense smog hung over South San Joaquin valley. we arrived home about 8:00 P.M. at Cholame.

- California Condor -

ben Mcmillan

8. Feb. 1963

Light showers fell at sunrise. Some clearing took place at 8:00 A.M. and continued throughout the day but high thin clouds were in evidence all day. The wind was west, brisk at times. The temperature mild throughout the day, but becoming cooler in the evening.

Cliff Smith and Waldo Abbott spent the night with us, last night. Waldo Abbott, who heads the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Bird Group on their field trips and Cliff Smith is Librarian at the Santa Barbara Museum of Nat. History. Smith is also a botanist of good repute. Abbott told me of seeing 3 Condor circling above the museum buildings in Santa Barbara, Calif. one day about two years ago. Abbott also told me

Condor -

Condor -

of two Condor that remained about the Segwick Ranch during ^{NOV 21-1954} January of 1955.

- Food -

These Condor remained about the area where a heifer had died. On one occasion when his bird group went to see these Condor they flew from a tree near where they had remained for for a week and flew high into the air towards Big Pine Mountain only to return to the beginning area after a flight that took them nearly to the limit of view of binoculars.

E. K.

California Condor

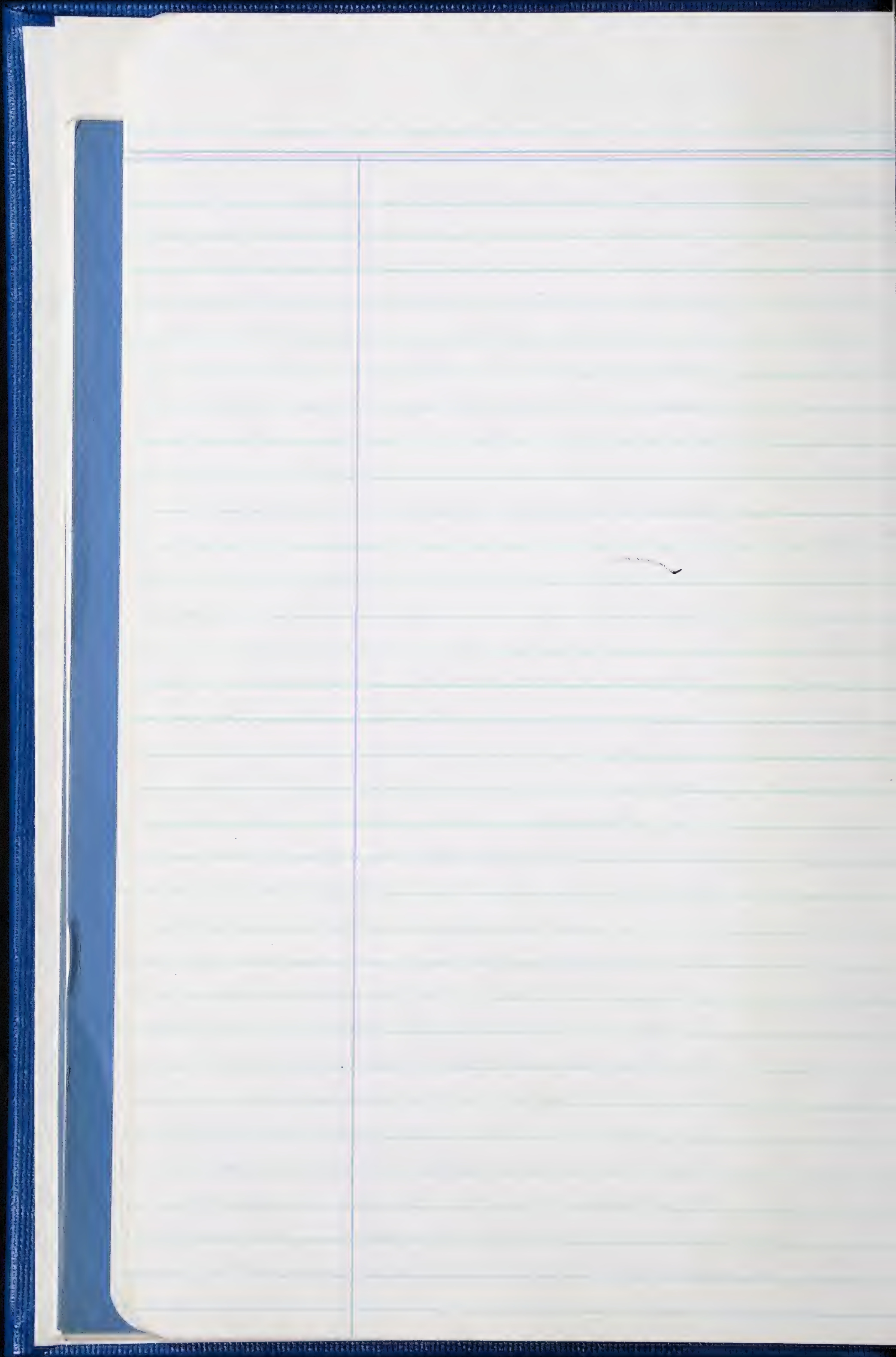
Ben McMillan

11 February-1963

met Gan at Shandon at 6:15 A.M. joining him in driving to Santa Barbara, Calif. where we arrived at 9:00 A.M. supposed to meet with the National Forest Service people in Santa Barbara at 10:00 A.M. we spent the time in between with Waldo Lobbott and Cliff Smith at the Museum of Natural History of S.B. discussing matters relative to the Condor study. we went to the office of Mr. Hansen, Superintendent of U.S. Forest Service Los Padres National Forest and his assistant, Mr. Crouch, at 10:00 A.M. where we went over matters relative to our relationship with these people during the course of the Condor study.

Hansen & Crouch, according to their Testimonies, had not as yet received word from Carl Buckheiser of Nat. Audubon Society, even though Gan had received his Carbon Copy Last ~~Saturday~~ Friday Feb. 8-. This, as expected, caused some misunderstanding to begin with but these were quickly straightened out and a further constructive meeting was the result of our trip.

a severe storm lasting since last Friday evening and only clearing this morning, has been general throughout the Condor range. Three inches of rain falling at Paso Robles and a like amount on down the coast to Los Angeles. One inch fell in Soda Lake area of Carrisa Plains. Heavy rains fell in the Fillmore area. The Temperatures have been mild throughout the storm.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

12-February-1963

People

It was very mild - cloudy and threatening rain as I drove to Gene Rambo's ranch on the Cholame flats, 8 miles N. West of Cholame, at 9:30 A.M. Gene and son Greg were hanging a wooden gate at his corrals. Gene said he had observed one adult Condor in the canyon back of his house last Sunday February 10-1963. This bird when first seen was flapping a good deal as it flew about in a light drizzle of rain. Gene didn't say if he saw what direction it took in leaving.

Condor

Gregory Rambo said he saw three Condor on January 27th near the old Charlie Maule cabin in the canyon behind the Rambo Home. Gene Rambo

Condor

also saw two adult Condor on the west ridge above the Charlie Maule cabin on January 12-1963.

I recruited Gene Rambo to act as watchman and recorder for any observations of Condor he should make in the future and to call either me or a collector should anything unusual show up. He also is to go with us to the east side of the San Joaquin valley next Tuesday and set up a watch among cowmen and packers he is acquainted with in that area.

Weather

I returned home at 2:30 P.M. Heavy rain started falling at 6:30 P.M. and continued on into the night.

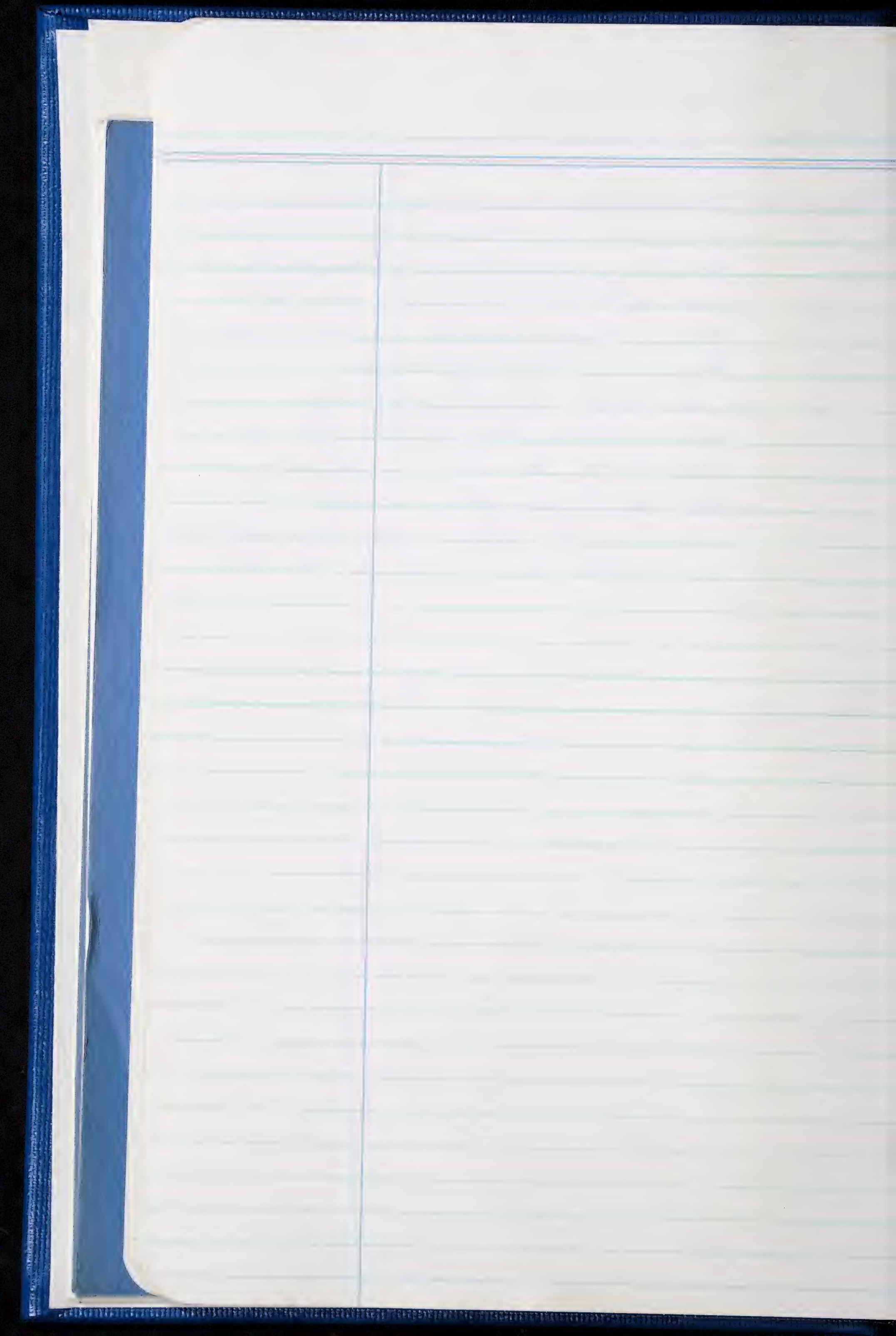
California Condor

Eben McMillan

13-February 1963

Rain fell throughout the day mostly in showers, some quite heavy. a pair of Redtailed hawk that nest $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the East of my house on an electric power pole were observed circling together displaying with feet hanging down and screaming at times.

Says phoebe were observed carrying nesting material into an alcove on the North side of my house and mourning dove were heard cooing throughout the day. These activities among these birds, here, are earlier than usual by two weeks.



California Condor

Ben McMillan

14-February-1963

at Thibaults

food-

Driving to the Northeast side of Cholame Flats at 9:00 A.M. I saw the first Turkey Vulture of spring in the Palo Prieta Canyon and Two Golden Eagles circling above foothills 2 miles East of Cholame, on highway 41. The weather was mild-clear and damp with little wind. One dead stillborn calf and two dead cows, that were fresh enough for hungry Condor, were observed in the area. I drove North on road to Hancock Ranch then retraced my route until reaching the 466-41 highway / East of Cholame where I took 466 highway to Blackwells Corner and back home via the Bitterwater valley. NO Condor were seen.

Grazing?

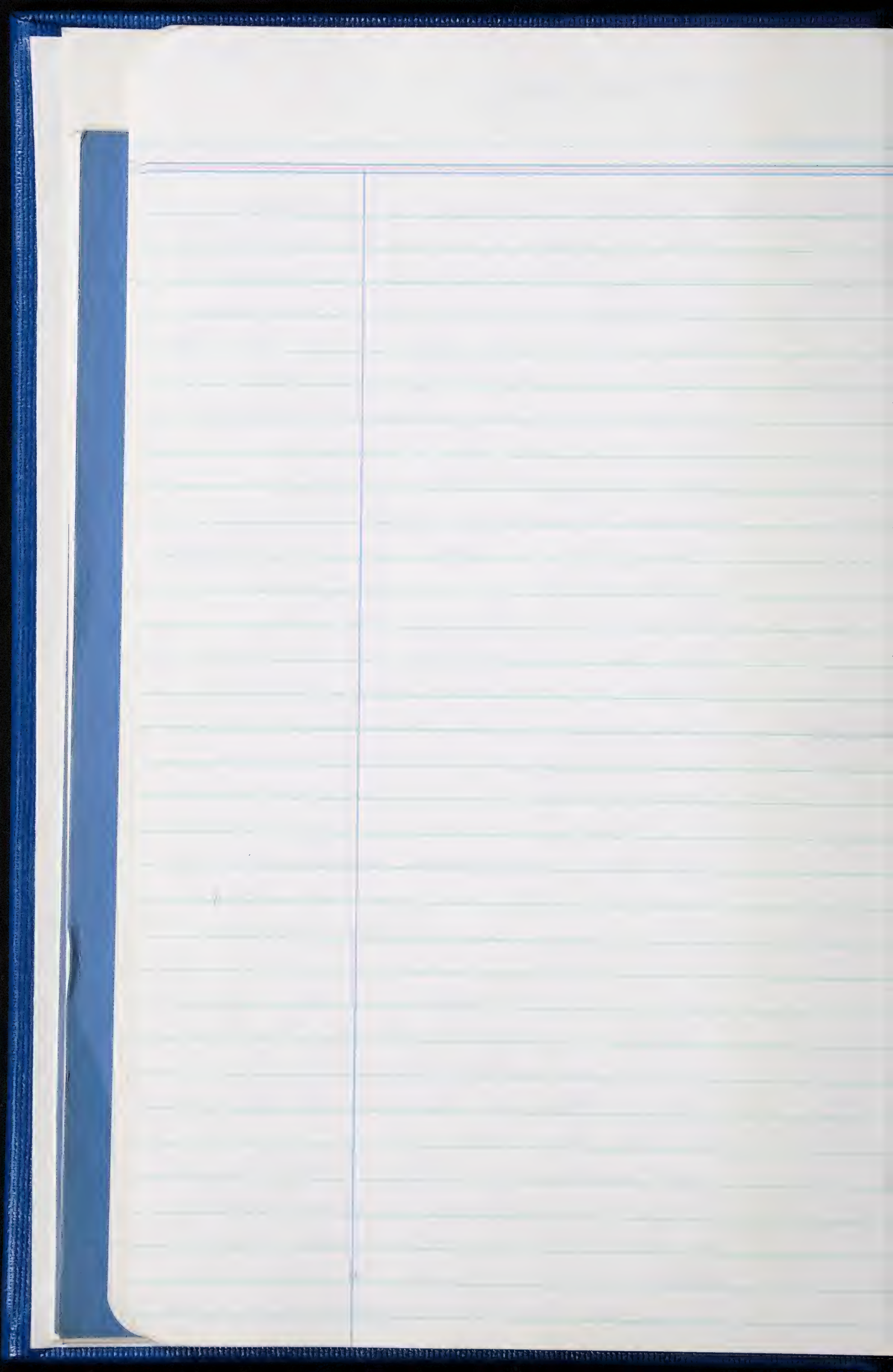
Range lands on Cholame Ranch and all of the Bitterwater-antelope-Blackwells Corner area-excepting four small holdings-was badly overgrazed. NO old vegetative cover could be seen and the Cholame flats were swept, if this term can be used to describe TOTAL lack of old grasses. All ^{areas} ~~areas~~ west of Blackwells Corner are green with a fresh stand of grasses that germinated with the last rains.

Great numbers of cattle and sheep are being rushed into the above described area to take advantage of the new growth of grass.

Fifteen flocks of sheep are in the Blackwells Corner Area.

Ted Twisselmann was burning Russian Thistle, with a crew of men. The Thistles had blown up against his fence south of highway 466 and was pushing it down-... A dead Coyote hung on roadside fence, near Cedar Canyon, in Bitterwater valley.

food



California Condor

en McMillan

15-February-1963

It was foggy and damp this morning turning to high thin clouds in afternoon and cooler in the evening.

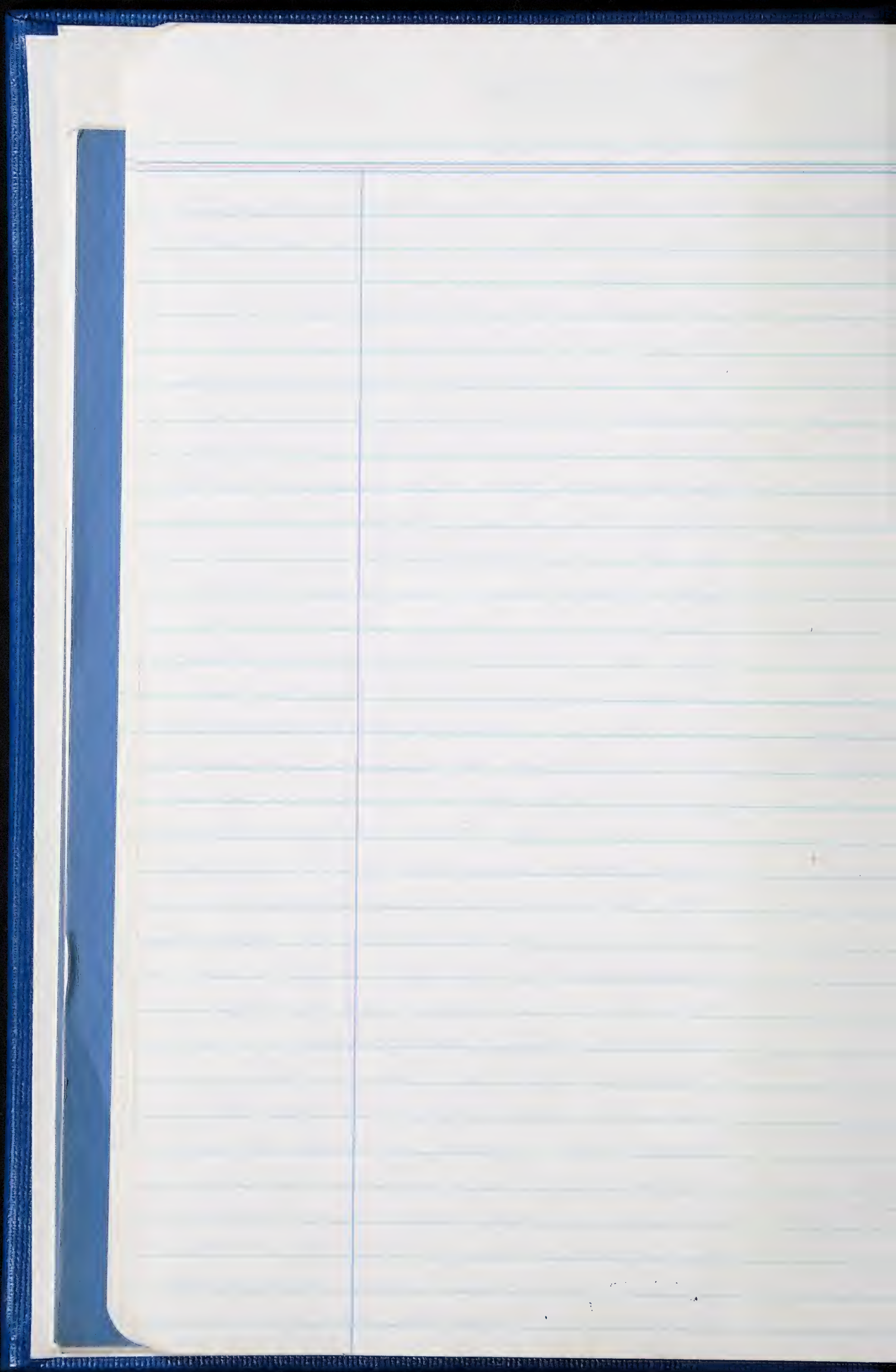
I drove to Cholame at 11:00 Am., then on out Highway 466 to Blackwells Corner where big Trucks were unloading sheep brought in from Lancaster on the Mojave desert. Returning to Kocks Corner at 3:30 P.m. and up over the McGovern grade I saw one adult Golden Eagle sitting atop a telephone pole above the Alley James Homestead Cabin - then to the Davies Ranch where I was told by Gilbert Davies (who knows condors) that no condor had been seen there since last summer. Gilbert Davies, in describing to his hired man the immensity of a condor thought its wingspread to be 15 or 16 feet. He nevertheless did furnish a very good description of a condor leaving the ground, with his arms as wings - Gilbert Davies beat the air much as a condor does when getting off the ground - flexing his elbows and wrists to show the loose jointed appearance of the condors wings, he did a remarkable job. He also had the white under the wings well in mind.

Ernest Still who lives 3 miles south of Davies Ranch had not seen condor for a year or more, he said.

Ernest Still feels that condors are not as scarce as stated. Several people have told him in recent years of seeing 60 or 70 condors in a bunch. Still knows condors a condor that fell into one of his water tanks many years ago was given to state game warden Les Arnold of Kern Co.

5:30
Condor →

Numbers



California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 February 1963

Saw Condor

not entered

on way to Ventura, California, via the Carissa Plains, I stopped to chat with Ray Arnette caretaker for the Kern County Land Company, at the Whim Camp. Arnett had been at the Whim for only two years, he ^{remember} ~~remembering~~ having observed any Condor in the Lower Carissa Plains area during this time. He did see several Condor while working at the San Emigdeo Ranch of the Land Company, some years ago. It will be interesting to see if his now becoming watchful for Condor, to help us out, will show birds in his area.

Condor

Calf

Jack Samuels, the caretaker for Rudnick Trust, at the Tope Camp near Reyes Station, had seen no Condor since he had come there two years ago. Samuels spoke of one of the Hudson boys, from the Cuyama Valley, telling him of seeing a Condor riding a big Calf down a hill. I doubt that Samuels knows Condor.

Condor

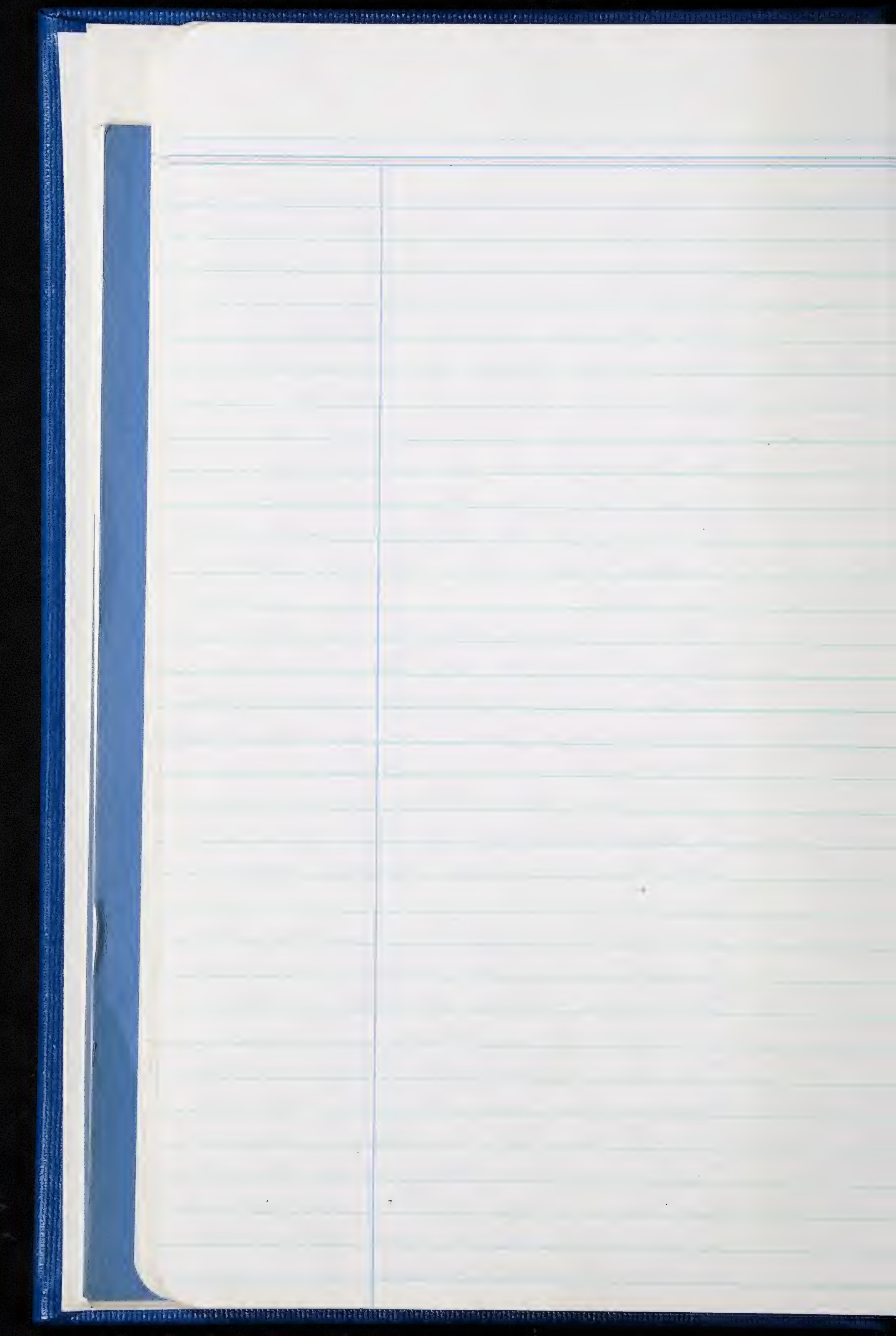
not entered

just -

ca. 2:30 p.m. I stopped at Gene Wegas ranch in upper Cuyama Valley but found no one home.

ca. 2:45 p.m. I stopped at Scotty's, a joint in the upper Cuyama, where the caretaker told me of seeing two Condor on the Cuyama river bridge near the Lockwood Valley Turnoff. This was about 4 years ago.

The Condor were sitting on the side of the cement bridge and had been feeding on a Jackrabbit that lay dead on the bridge. Near Ozena knows Condors.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

3329

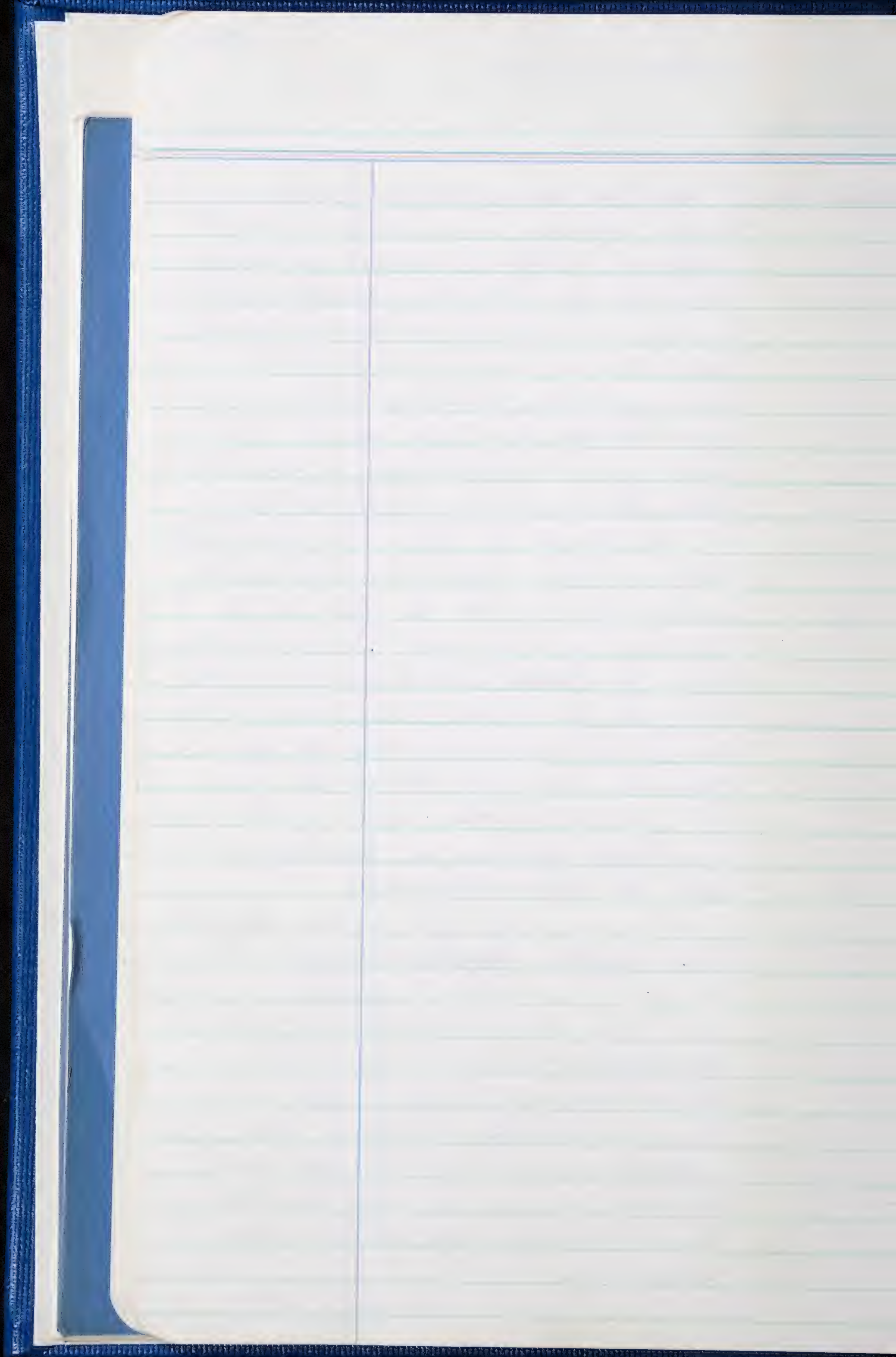
18 February 1963

I phoned the Broome Ranch at 1:15 P.M. in regards to gaining access to this area, in the future, in trying to establish the Southwest extension of Condor range. The Broome Ranch is located South of the town of Camarillo some distance and is reported to have been the feeding ground of Condors in the past. Mr. Bennett, the Superintendent, gave me every reason to ~~believe~~ believe we could expect their full co-operation in the Condor study.

I then phoned the residence of Jack Willett, of Santa Paula whose wife informed me he was not in but she felt sure he would be most anxious to help us in any way. Mrs. ~~Willett~~ Willett informed me of a ranch her husband Jack owned in the hot-spring area of the Sespe to which he takes his cattle each spring. This area, being about 8 or ten miles up the Sespe from Hopper Mountain will be a strategic spot for Condor observation.

At this time I also tried to phone a Rudolph Reyes, formally a ~~lifetime~~ lifetime resident of the Cuyama Valley who will be able to fill us in on early history of Condor, as Rudolph Reyes is past 70 years old and hunted and rode horseback much in the mountains bordering the Cuyama Valley.

Although the weather has been foul in the San Joaquin Valley the last several days it is stated to have been very nice in the Sespe area.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

2329

19 February - 1963

2000 ft

History

Shot Condor

Shot Condor

Nest

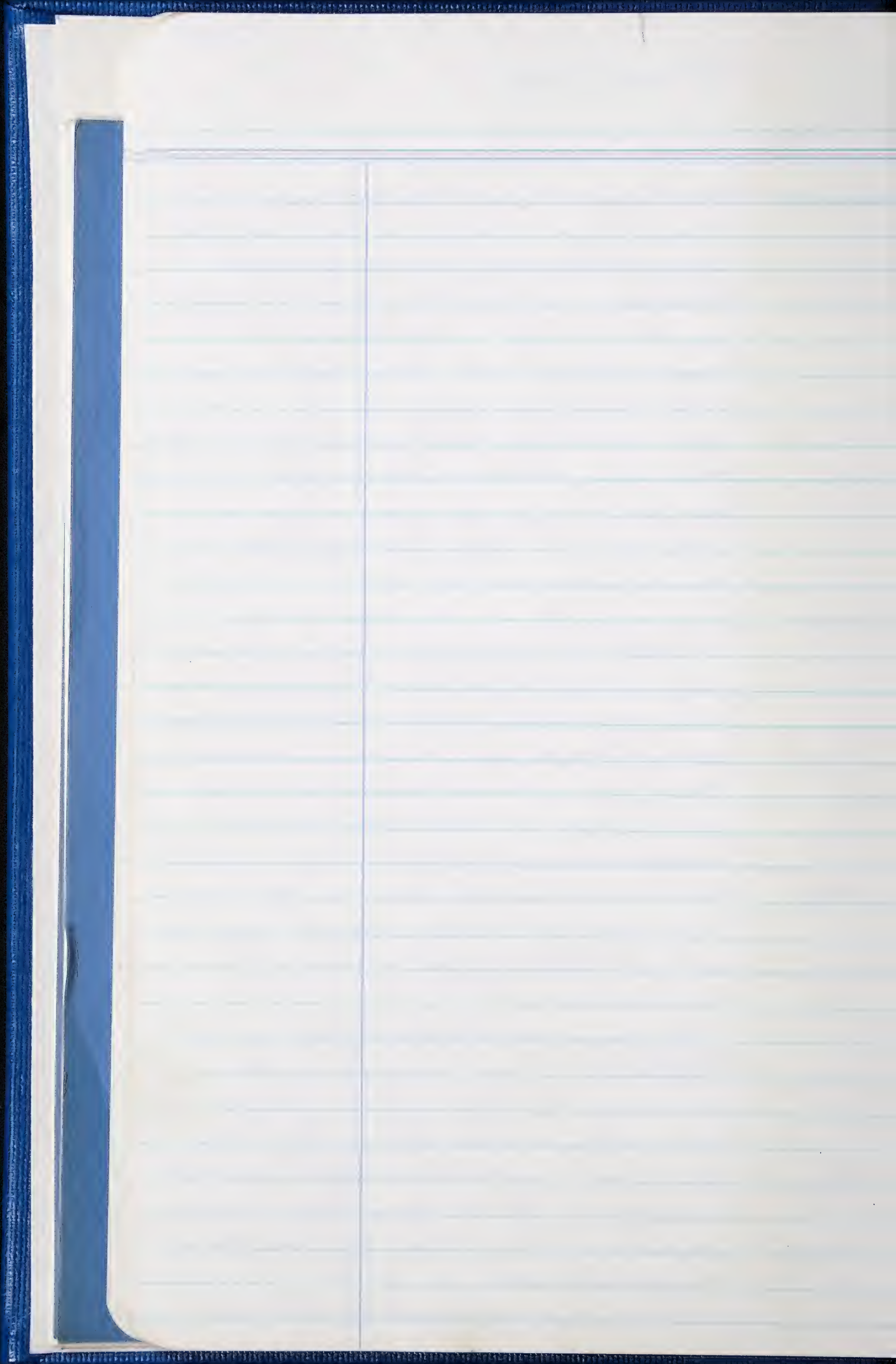
Nest

In my Dodge car - Ike and I met Gene Rumbos at Cholame Restaurant for breakfast at 5:00 am. after which we drove to Dunlap, Calif. a hamlet 30 miles East of Fresno where we met Hugh Trawick a packer of that area who we thought might know something of condor. He had never seen a condor but he did take us to a nearby ranch and introduce us to a Mr. Baker, an 86 year old resident of that area who told of seeing condor there quite frequently in early days, but he thought he had seen no condor in the last 25 or 30 years. Mr. Baker related of knowing someone who had killed a condor with a 22 caliber rifle in that area many years ago.

We visited T.C. Buckman of Visalia after having lunch in that town then, drove to the Marion Vincent Ranch east of Delano on Garces Highway. As has been written in Koford's work, Vincent knows condors having had a mounted specimen in his home for many years and which is now located in a cafe and bar in the town of Rio Vista, Calif. Mr. Vincent had shot this condor and after a long delay, supposedly received a permit to keep it in his home ~~provided~~ provided he displayed it in schools of the area.

Mr. Vincent has observed condors on many ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions} in late years and spoke of seeing some of these birds on his place within the last month. Mr. Vincent had never heard of the nesting record in the Tule River drainage. He also thinks condor return to the Sespe Refuge after each days foraging in his area. He does not think condor nest in the mts. near his area.

Moderate weather - smog on valley floor. little wind.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

2329

21-February-1963

a cool wet fog covered the Salinas River drainage area this morning, with heavy fog in the San Joaquin Valley. a cool east wind that had come up yesterday morning was still blowing mildly. I drove to Jan's for breakfast at 6:00 A.M. after which we drove to the La Panza Ranch, seeing a Coyote, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the Cammatta Ranch, that crossed the road in front of us, on our way. ^{Bud} Zimmerman, foreman for Jake Martins of La Panza Ranch, told us of seeing four condor eating on a dead calf that he had hauled across the road from the ranch buildings about a week ago. He was quite sure it was less than 10 days ago that the condor were there.

We then drove up the San Juan River to Willow Spring Canyon, seeing many cattle on the way that were still weak from the short winter rations. We came back out of Willow Spring Canyon and drove on up San Juan River to Beartrap Canyon where we left the pickup at end of road and hiked up Beartrap Creek to a vantage point under the Beartrap Rock where we remained for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours watching for Condor. staying from 9:00 A.M. till 12:30 P.M. No Condor came into view. At 9:45 A.M. an Eagle (Golden) flew into view, in front of the main rock face, and landed in a pine tree. At 10:40 A.M. another Golden Eagle flew back and forth in front of the main Rock face several times then circling, gained altitude and with flexed wings soared out of sight towards the Carrisa Plains.

we returned to the pickup at 1:20 p.m. and drove
 back and up San Juan River where we saw many
 cattle standing on winter feeding grounds waiting to
 be fed hay. When these cattle saw us approaching, they
 commenced bawling and came toward us thinking we
 had hay to feed them. The Lapanza Ranch shows
 the effects of maximum overgrazing. The stock
 belonging to Arenales Cattle Co. which we saw on
 the range in Bear Trap Canyon were in good condition
 as did the range. New grass on the Lapanza was
 although showing very green, in not of sufficient
 strength to satisfy the needs of the livestock there.
 Leaving the San Juan River via the Big Bend and
 Carissa plains we returned to the Navajo Ridge
 owned by Rudnick Trust to find that great numbers
 of sheep had been hauled into that area within the
 last two weeks. Sheep were scattered all over the
 place. Many ~~dead~~^{dead} sheep were seen in areas
 where the trucks had unloaded. Some dead
 lambs were scattered about and nowhere
 did we see any sign of attempts to bury or
 burn the dead animals. Grass on this sheep
 range is very short.

6-10-63
 1

food

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

22-Feb. 1963

Coast fog lay in the San Juan river bottom and a cool east wind was blowing off a bank of San Joaquin valley fog that hung along Top of Temblor and Bitterwater Hills as Gregory Mcmillan and I left for the Navajo-San Juan, and La Panza area at 8:00 A.M. in my pickup truck. Arriving in the Navajo Canyon, via San Juan, and French Camp we checked with the French Shepherd there and found he had seen no large birds this morning. We then drove up a ridge to the Top of Navajo ridge and chatted with a Spanish Basque Shepherd camped there who told us, in Spanish, of seeing large birds yesterday. We drove southwest one mile, along Crest of ridge and came upon one Condor and about 8 Turkey vultures feeding on the carcasses of dead sheep that were scattered about the area where Trucks had unloaded sheep yesterday. The Condor and Two of the vultures were feeding on the carcass of a small lamb. We stopped the pickup upon seeing the Condor and watched it for a few minutes with binoculars from a distance of about 300 Yards. The Condor flew about a bit, as we watched, and alighted again about 50 feet from where it flew from, formally. After walking about some, the condor then took off and circled about for about 5 minutes before it headed towards the east for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile then turned north and continued on this ^{COURSE} ~~course~~ for about Two miles when it was seen to drop down towards the Navajo Canyon. It was 11:00 A.M. when we first sighted this Condor and it had disappeared towards the north by 11:30 A.M.

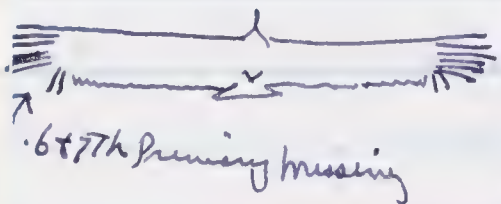
Condor

food -

over

Condor - Cont. California Condor Eben McMillan

Feb. 22 - 1963



When the Condor, formally mentioned, flew from the ground the first time we noted a feather missing in the right wing about the 6th or 7th primary in from the end of the right wing. When it flew the second time it circled a few times above the feeding area. On one of the turns, ^{as it} a primary feather fell from the right wing that turned out to be one on either the outer, or inner, side of the gap that was caused by the previously missing feather. This feather is Specimen NO. 1. in my Condor material. Its overall length is $25\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The distance from the root-end to the first barbs and the depth which the quill was imbedded was $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The width of the feather at its widest point was $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The height of the bend at its maximum from the horizontal was $3\frac{1}{3}$ inches.

At 11:00 A.M. when we first saw this bird the sky was overcast with low foggy clouds coming across on a brisk, and cold, east wind. At no time during ~~these~~ ^{these} observations did we see enough color on its head to identify it as an adult bird.

Driving to the lower end of the Navajo creek we came upon a Condor that showed much orange on the head, as it fed with several Turkey Vultures on the carcass of a dead Ewe sheep. The sun was not shining brightly, it being 12:10 p.m., and the cold east wind was not blowing here. As the bird left, as it did after we watched it for about three minutes, it flew directly above us at a height of about 150 feet. We could easily make out the gap of at least 2 missing outer primary feathers in the right wing, about 6 and 7 or 7 and 8 from the end.

Continue to Page 3

Eben McMillan

California Condor - Con't.

329

22 Feb. 1963

There seems little doubt that this bird we observed in the Navajo at 12:00 p.m. was the same bird we saw on the Navajo ridge an hour earlier in the day. The head was not observed to be bright yellow when we saw this bird at 11:00 a.m. even though white was detected under the wings. In the Navajo one hour later this bird's head was very orange and the white under the wings appeared very white. Did the dull light of the Navajo situation make the orange head difficult to identify, or can the bird go through color changes in the skin pigments on its head to a lesser or greater degree?

The Navajo bird circled about the low hills for about 10 minutes and then was seen no more as it disappeared behind these hills in the direction of the San Juan Ranch.

food

food

In the area where a sheep camp is located in the lower Navajo valley there were more than 20 dead adult sheep and at least as many lambs. At the sheep camp on the Navajo ridge where the Condor was first sighted there were more than 8 adult sheep carcasses and more than 10 dead lamb carcasses - at the main sheep camp on the San Juan river below La Panza bridge more than 40 dead lambs were seen and more than 10 adult sheep. The Camp tender told me he thought it the result of some poison grass. A shepherd told me he thought it to be caused from not enough grass.

10-11-12

7

California Condor

Eben McMillan

324

1 March 1963

drove to the Navajo in a.m., arriving by 11:00 a.m. after having spent an hour and one half at Sam's checking on his observations of the last 5 days. Some Turkey vultures were feeding on a dead sheep in the Navajo valley. I drove to the top of the Navajo ridge at 11:15 a.m. where I checked with three shepherds who were at one of the Trailer houses on the ridge. One of these shepherds told me he saw 5 Pajaro Grande (Condor) at 10:00 a.m. this morning near a dead sheep, in a draw on the East slope of the Navajo ridge. I do not lend much authenticity to this observation as this same shepherd, while we were talking, thought some Buzzards flying some distance away were Condor.

As I drove down a ridge to the San Juan river I saw 5 Turkey Buzzards feeding on a dead ^{sheep} ~~cat~~ among some oak trees at the foothills below Swallow rock. An immature Golden Eagle flew from the carcass of a dead Lamb that was laying near the river near where the Buzzards were at 12:35 p.m. The Lamb had blood on its face as though it had bled at the mouth before death. Two adult Condor showed up circling above where the 5 Buzzards were on the dead sheep. Both of these Condor were in adult plumage and no sign of missing feathers in their wings or tail. Both of these Condor were watched for 40 minutes as they circled above. at times they would circle to the west gaining good altitude only to come back and circle the area where many buzzards were circling now having ~~been~~ ^{having} risen from the dead sheep.

The wind was blowing a stiff gale from the East. The two Condor would gain altitude quickly

Condor - Cont. California Condor Eben McMillan

1 March 1963

while drifting somewhat to the west. As they would reach an elevation that appeared to be well above the top of the ridge they would then come back ^{slowly} into this wind traveling very ~~slowly~~. They would lose elevation quite rapidly as they arrived over the river and would circle there for several minutes before circling and drifting west again. at 1:25 p.m. both condors flew up the San Juan river to the south and disappeared from view.

Condor I drove to the top of the La Panza ridge again at 2:00 p.m. and saw another adult condor with no feathers missing circling above the crest on the east side. This bird circled me quite close and then dropped to the river valley below on set wings. I tried to follow it with the glasses but it passed from view after it was well down the river valley.

3:00 an adult Golden Eagle was seen circling above the blue-point area of the San Juan River at 2:30 p.m. *Food* 5 Turkey Vultures were feeding on a dead lamb 1/2 mile below the La Panza Bridge - The flock of sheep that are in the river below the La Panza Bridge have no herder. Most of the lambs in this flock are very small and some very thin. Coyotes must molest them somewhat with no herder about - especially at night.

The Mexican Shepherd, who has the flock in the upper Navajo Canyon told me there were 8000 sheep in the Navajo field. He thought this number far too many for this range. One of the Basque Shepherds, who tends a flock on top of the Navajo ridge, told me he thought the feed would be gone in the Navajo field in two weeks if no more rain comes within 10 days.

The temperature in the Navajo area was cool with a clear sky and a sharp east wind blowing.

california condor

Eben McMillan

4 March 1963

329

in Eagle

Driving down the Palo Prieta Canyon at 10:00 AM. I noticed that both the upper and lower pairs of Golden Eagles were incubating. Had Clifton Stanley ~~notarize~~ ^{NOTARIZE} a signed statement releasing the National Geographic Society of any responsibility in a physical and ^{public liability} way regarding the activities of this Condor study. Then drove to Navajo Canyon via San Juan and French Camp. Met John Loftus, foreman on Cammatta Ranch, who said he had seen no condor of late. In discussing sheep with him he said that small bands of sheep that were left in the Navajo when Rodricks shipped out last summer have been straying around the Cammatta property all winter.

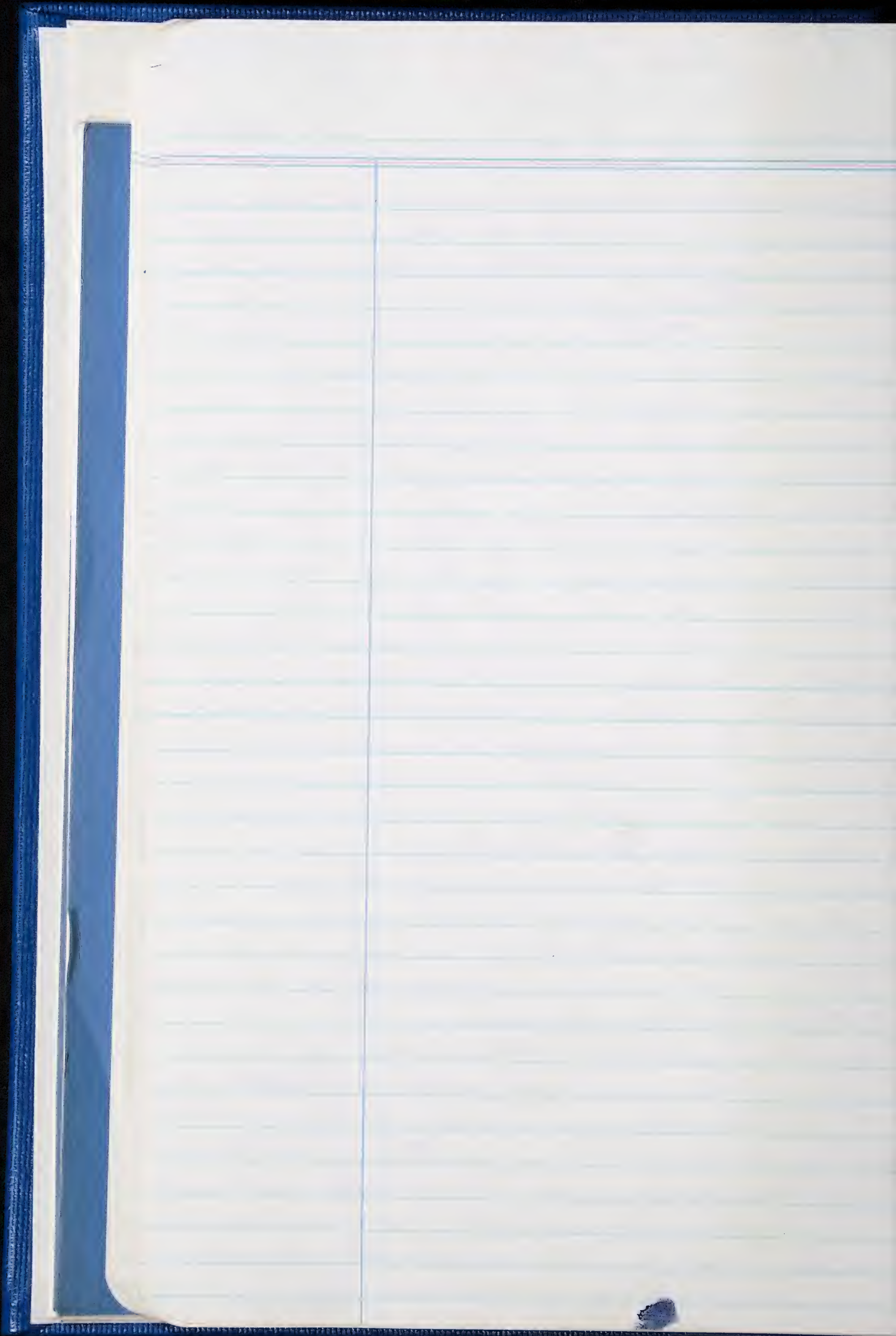
here

found —

Driving to the top of Navajo Ridge I met a herder who told me he had seen no dead sheep on the north end of the property and no big birds. I then drove down to the river (San Juan) and found no fresh carcasses. I photographed carcasses of two dead lambs that had been picked clean by birds, but saw no large birds here. Then drove back on top of ridge and proceeded south to trailer of shepherd where I found he and two other shepherds visiting while their flocks rested at midday. Red faced shepherd, the one that I think knows a condor, told me he had seen no condor either this morning nor yesterday. As these shepherds and I were talking several Buzzards flew up from a canyon to the west. I went there but found only 8 more buzzards feeding on the carcass of a dead Ewe Sheep that had been dead for 5 or 6 days.

found —

at 4:30 P.M. I drove to where small flock of Ewes + lambs (500) feed $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below (north) of Lapanza bridge. ^{I watched} ~~watched~~ this flock until sunset, for they have no herder to look after them and I want to see if any predation is occurring ^{here} ~~there~~ at night. At dusk horned owls called from 3 different points — The sheep bedded down $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after dusk and I put my bed nearby. All was quiet until 11:30 P.M. When I awoke to hear Coyotes calling and the sheep bleating — The sheep moved off $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west but I could hear no sign of hunting.



Shen McMillan

5-March-1963

2329

The sheep continued bleating until 2:00 A.M. When Quiet settled over the area and was not broken until 5:45 A.M. when the flock commenced bleating and moving out to feed. I went over the area thoroughly and could find no sign of any sheep that had been killed by predators in the night. at 7:00 A.M. ravens were seen feeding on a lamb carcass that turned out to be at least 10 days dead. I found a dead Ewe that had passed on in the night, by the river's edge, but it was plainly evident this sheep had died from some respiratory infection for much ~~mucus~~^{MUCUS} was about the nostrils and the eyes were open and were much inflamed. Nothing had eaten on this sheep.

I drove to the Top of Navajo ridge and breakfasted at the Shepherd's trailer. He was out with his sheep till 11:00 A.M. The first Buzzard came by at 10:30 A.M. at 11:30 A.M. many Buzzards were about circling and dropping into the canyon west of the trailer where the dead sheep is. The weather now turned warm and high clouds covered the sky. I drove to the Navajo valley and watched 7 trucks and trailers loading Lambs and Ewes - I was told they were going to feed near Modesto, Calif.

at 1:00 o'clock the Shepherd on Navajo ridge told me his flock were very nervous and hard to manage, due, he thought, to shortage of feed.

I drove up La Panza Ranch road to Beartrap Canyon - going up San Juan river I met Budd Zimmermann, ^{Foreman} ~~foreman~~ on La Panza Ranch who told me he had seen no Condor since I had last talked to him. He also told me that a 50 pound lamb that had been left in the Navajo field when all the sheep were shipped out last early summer had stayed in the river with a few La Panza Steers all winter and joined a flock of sheep only recently. Mr. Zimmermann said he sees lots of Coyotes on La Panza. He does not tell Jake Martins when he sees one for in his words, Quote - (over)

here

California Condor Cont.

Eben McMillan

5 March 1963

"for if ~~I~~^I tell Jake about seeing a Coyote he would dash up there with some Poison and clean them (Coyotes) out; and I don't think they do any harm; and besides I like to see and hear them." end Quote.

found
same carcass as
checked before

I returned to Navajo ridge and checked the dead sheep west of shepherd's trailer. Found 3 Ravens and 7 Buzzard still feeding on this carcass at 4:00 P.M. -

The day commenced quite cold and miserable, but clouded up with a mild North wind blowing. at sunset it was cold again but the clouds remained.

California Condor

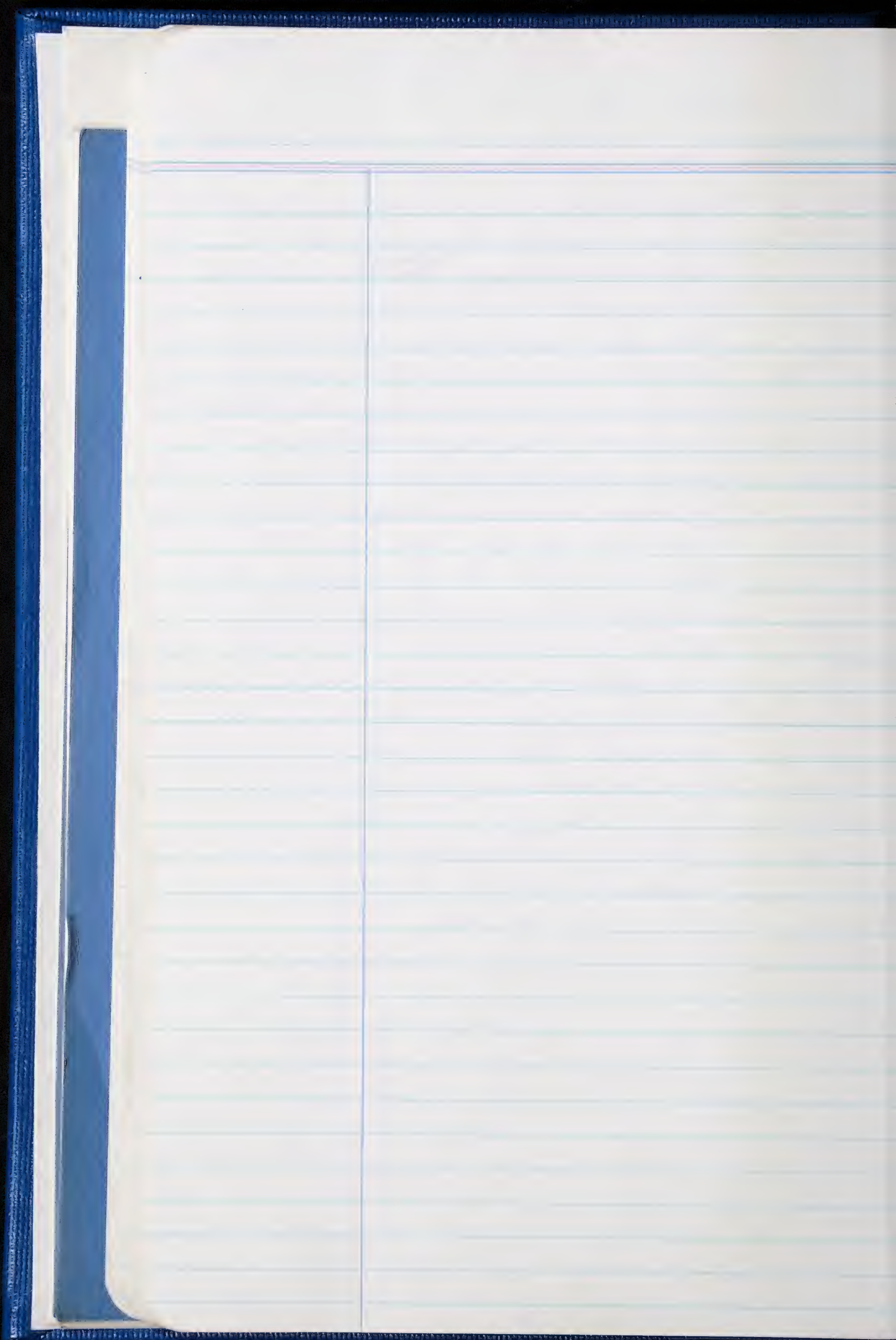
Berkeley
S.F.

Eben Mcmillan

7 March-1963

a left home at 4:30 A.M. in Dodge car - picked
 ake up in Hayward at 8:30 A.M. We were at
 the university of California ~~in~~^{MUSEUM} of Vertebrate
 Zoology at 9:30 A.M. We chatted with Dr.
 Alden Miller until 10:15 A.M. When Paul
 Buchheister came and we four spent the
 remainder of the morning discussing different
 phases of the Condor Study. at noon we were
 taken to lunch by Dr. Miller after which
 we further discussed the Condor Project
 until 3:30 P.M. when a and I took
 Carl Buchheister to the Audubon Office
 in Berkeley and then drove over Bay
 Bridge to San Francisco where we met
 and discussed matters pertaining to the
 protection of Nesting Golden Eagle in our
 area with Robert Lassen of California
 Division of Fish and Game in his
 office in the Ferry Building.

We left San Francisco at 5:10 P.M.,
 stopped for dinner in Gilroy and a was
 home by 10:45 P.M.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

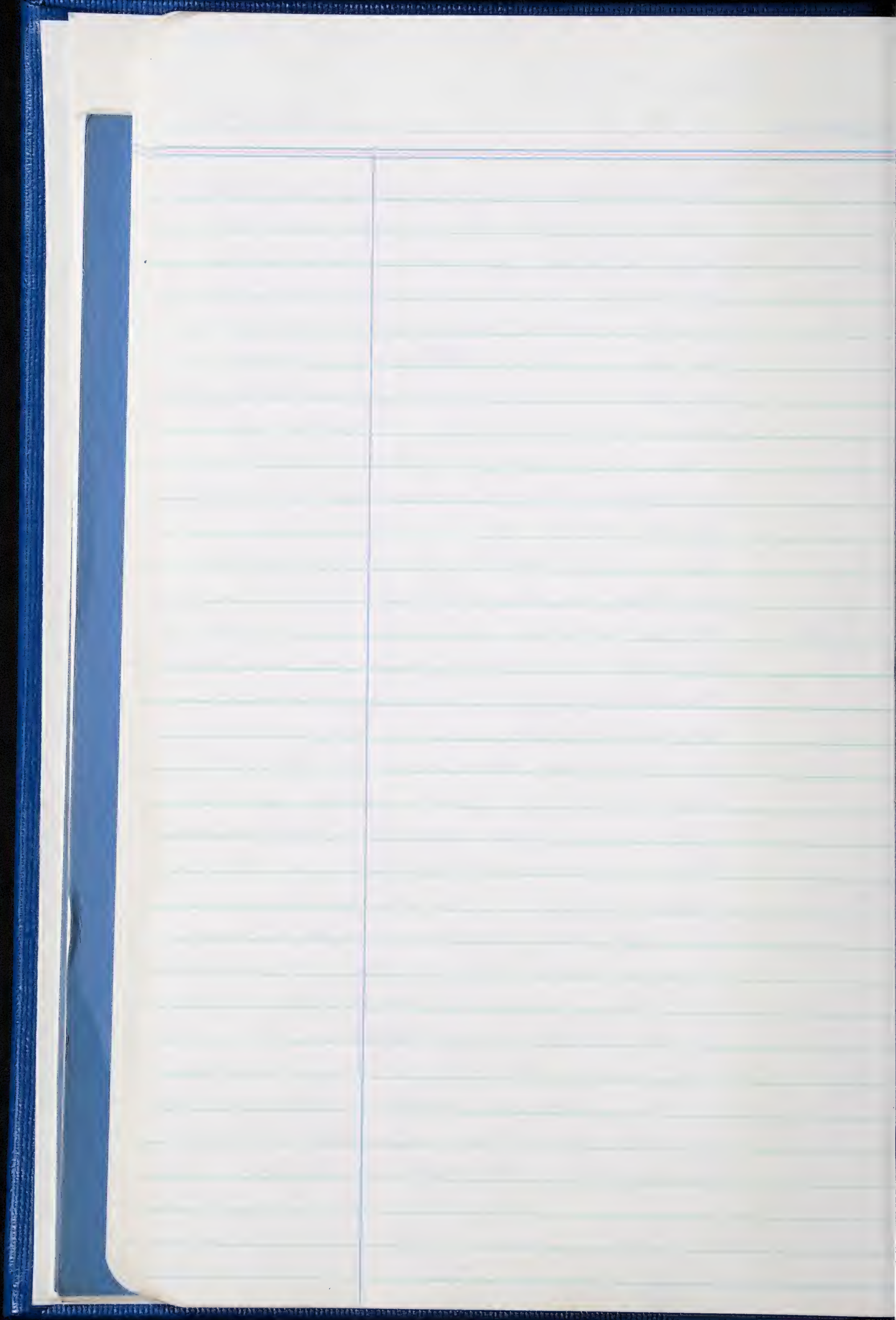
8 March - 1963

- food -

The temperature was very moderate as I drove down the Palo Prieta Canyon and up the Cholame valley to the Kern grade, which I took up into the hills to reach an observation point that would overlook the Condor roosting area back of the Gene Rambo ^{house} ~~house~~ that is situated on the west side of the Cholame valley just above the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line. As I drove to the Kern Lake area I met Gene Rambo hauling hay to his cattle. He then led the way to a point on the North side of Maule Canyon that overlooked his house and also a hillside where he had dragged the carcass of a dead calf about three days ago and on which he said several Buzzards had been feeding, but no Condor. We watched this area for several hours and saw several Buzzards but no Condor. Gene Rambo said that Condors come to this area to roost mostly in bad weather. During a stormy period he saw an adult Condor sitting in a pine in late afternoon. A Condor was in the same tree, on the same limb the following afternoon. Rambo thinks Condors will stay in one place for several days during periods of bad, stormy weather.

A ground fog that filled the Salinas valley moved up on a shift west wind at 10:00 A.M. and the temperature turned quite cold. Clouds gathered in the westerly sky in P.M.

Condor



California Condor

en McMillan

11 March-1963

2329

I called the Bloomer Ranch, near Oxnard, at 8:15 A.M. to find out what ~~was~~ is known of Condor in that area. A Mr. Bennett, superintendent of this ranch, told me he had no record of Condor ever having been seen there. His records go back to about 1935.

Mr. Bennett did, however, advise me to call the Rancho Sierra Vista which is situated in the Canajo Valley to the south and west of Newbury Park and encompasses that area to the south of this town known as Boney Mountain, and which area would probably harbor Condors were they ever to enter this general area. I also called Sidney Peyton, of Fillmore, who spoke of being able to show us the nest site of Condor, that is not in the Refuge, and which Koford did not know of when he made his survey. The last time we were down here. Mr. Peyton, after I expressed willingness to see this nest site, he said he would call and get permission so that we could get in to see this nest site. I informed him that I would call him tonight at which time we would know more of what time we could meet ^{him} ~~him~~ on Tuesday.

I also called Mr. Jack Willett, of Santa Paula, who on being made aware that we would like his Condor observations, stated that he would be happy to help us out in whatever way he could. Jack Willett is a part time U.S. Fish and Wildlife trapper, as well as being a Rancher in the ^{Wheeler} ~~Wheeler~~ Canyon area west of Santa Paula, Calif. and also having a Forest Service permit to run cattle in the Hot Springs area, in the Sespe River.

I then came to Ventura where I met him in the store of John Tatt at 10:30 A.M. I and a drove to Rancho Sierra Vista, in the lower Canajo Valley where we contacted Mr. Sam Watson, manager of this ranch

over

11 March 1963 - Continued

California Condor Eben McMillan

11 March 1963

Who informed us we could come and go into the Boney Mt. area, on this Ranch, at our pleasure. We then drove to the Simi Valley and lunched on the Sh. Club, of Bruce Strathern. We did not get to see Bruce as he was not present. We saw workmen driving thousand of mallard ducks from a pen, down a lane to a pond of water about 300 yards down the valley in which this shooting preserve is located. This driving or ^{acquaint} is done to ~~acquire~~ the ducks with the water area to which they are supposed to fly when they are to be used as targets in this flight.

We drove to Fillmore - obtained a key to the Percy Ranch Gate from Gene Percy's Father, then drove to the Hopper Ranch of Gene Percy. Arriving at the Percy yard at 2:15 P.M.

We had only visited with Mr. Percy for a few minutes when a Condor immature plumage sailed in from the south, a bit to our North. As this Condor headed for the open hillside area North of the Percy home, a Golden Eagle dropped from out of the Hopper Mountain area and dove close to the Condor that immediately turned and diving to get away from the Eagle that appeared to slow up as it reached the Condor, and seemed to hold behind the Condor at a distance of about 5 feet as the Condor dove, ~~then~~ flew out and ~~disappeared~~ ^{disappeared} into the Hopper canyon to the S.W. The Golden Eagle remained in the for at least 30 minutes after it had driven off the Condor. Mr. Percy told us that ~~a~~ Golden Eagle had ~~dove~~ ^{dove} and forced two Condors to the ground on the ridge to the North and East of his house on February 7, 1963. The afternoon after we had left the last visit we made to this area. These Condors were attracted to this ridge by the calf carcass I had dragged to the top of this ridge from Oak trees on the north side of the ridge where I had found it the morning of Feb. 7th as an Eagle was seen flying

Condor

as found
entered before

11 March-1963 - Continued

Eben McMillan

11 March, 1963

from the Oaks there.

Mr. Percy took gun and a 70 to the top of Hopper Mountain and out to the point where Keoford had his lookout, overlooking the Hole in the Wall at 4:00 p.m. We saw

Three Condor sitting in the top of the spruce tree that stands to the south side of the Cirque of the hole-in-the-wall. another Condor was seen circling above the Hole-in-the-wall. This bird alighted on a ledge ^{on} the North face of the Hole. At 4:30 p.m.

another Condor was seen to drop in from above and alight in a cave on the south side of the Cirque.

When we left the point - 4 Condors were perched on ledges on north side of cirque and one in the cave on the south side of the Cirque.

I phoned Sid Peyton who told me Jack Gains was sick and could not go with us to see the nest I had talked to him about, before, and Sid also said he could not get permission to enter the refuge with us, and that Mr. Parkinson, the U.S. Forest Service representative in the Ojai office, wanted to talk with us so that he or someone else could take us into the ~~refuge~~ ^{refuge}. I then called Mr. Parkinson and explained to him that we were only interested in seeing this nest site that Mr. Peyton had described to us and that we could now wait for official recognition from the forest service before having them go into the area with ^{us} ~~them~~. I told Mr. Parkinson, over the phone, that we would drop in and visit him tomorrow.



California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

12 MARCH - 1963

Ike and I were up and away by 7:30 AM driving to the Top of the ridge north of the perch house we parked the truck and took a trail North that took us out on the ridge north of Hopper Mountain. Due to fog and hazy visibility we could not see into the hole in the wall well from this point so we hiked along the ridge to a spot 200 yards north of Koford's lookout point where it was possible to look in and see that no Condors were on the ledges of Hole in the Wall where we had seen them last night. This was about 9:30 AM. We held this point for an hour and one half or ~~about~~ 11:00 AM. When the cloudy and cold situation caused us to return to our car. As we proceeded back Two men from the forest service who had been sent to see that we did not have any ~~unauthorized~~ unauthorized personell with us, Mr. Peyton in particular, were parked on the ridge road near Koford's lookout point. They told us their mission and that they had been alerted to keep us under surveillance. after getting what information ~~from~~ ^{from} them we could. we rode back to where their road went west and we hiked along the ~~East~~ ^{East} face of Hopper Mountain. upon arriving at our

5 Juvenile Condor

Truck a note was found on the steering wheel stating that Mr. pevek had observed 5 Juvenile Condor as he came to the ranch down below, at 9:00 AM, at ~~Angel~~ ^{Angel} Pass, the place where his road crosses into the canyon west, about two miles S.W. from his house. Mr. pevek stated, in the note that this was the largest group of young Condor he had observed together for many years.

One of the Forest Service fellows we met on the Ridge above Hopper Mountain said he had not seen more than Two (2) Condors at a time. The other man did not state how many he had seen.

Condor. Continued March 12-1968- Eben McMillan

Condor?
not entered

We drove to Ojai at 4:00 p.m. where we met with Mr. Parkinson, the area supervisor of the Forest Service in that area and discussed matters of the Condor Study with him. He claimed to have seen 27 Condors about 3 years ago. He seemed cooperative and where his attitude towards Mr. Peyton was a bit reserved he nevertheless ~~anticipated~~ ^{anticipated} working ~~close~~ ^{closely} with us and stated that he thought the Condor Study long overdue. He did give indication that he thought the Condor project was going to take place primarily in the Condor Sanctuary area and that the Forest Service would be very much involved.

Mr. Parkinson stated that several people in the Fillmore area were very much opposed to the Condor Refuge and that they were continually creating friction. A Mr. Harter who has a cattle lease in the Corridor, in Sespe Valley, and who operates a business in Fillmore was mentioned as was Mr. Jack Willett, who we had intended to visit this evening in Santa Paula and who also has a grazing permit in the Hot Springs area of the Sespe who also is a part time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Trap and Lion Hunter. Mr. Willett thought he should be able to trap and hunt lion inside the Refuge and was not happy with Mr. ~~Parkinson's~~ ^{Parkinson's} decision against this activity.

After learning of these ~~personality~~ ^{personality} conflicts we thought it best to see Jack Willett later on when we knew the particulars, so instead of seeing him we drove on home ~~by~~ ^{by} 10:00 p.m.

McMillan

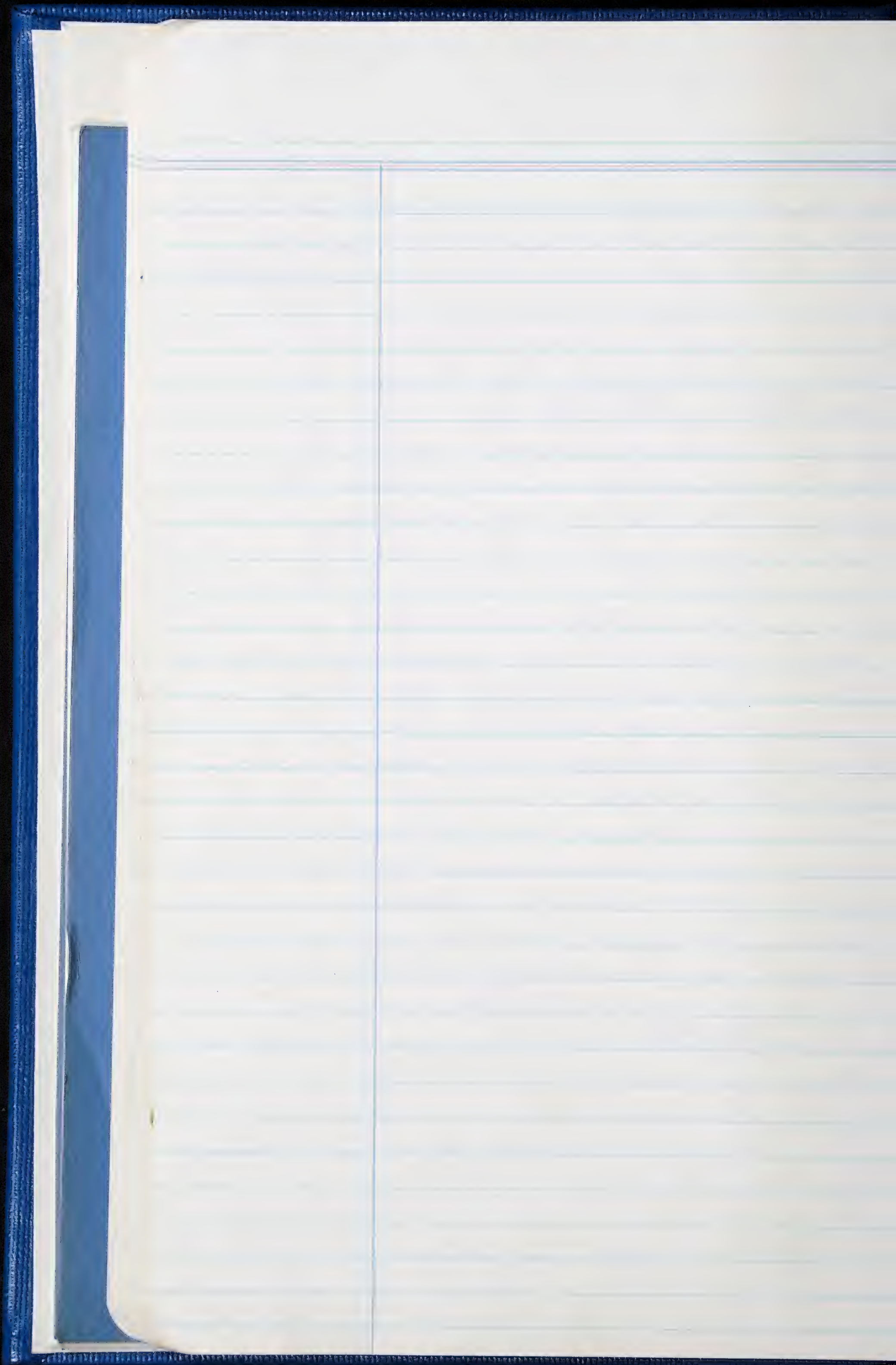
13 March, 1963

I called Muriel Kenwood in Three Rivers, Calif. at 8:30 A.M. to arrange to meet her next week in regards to getting information on Condor. That Peter Jordan of M.V.Z. ^{had} ~~had~~ seen there in 1958.

at 9:15 A.M. I drove to the Navajo Canyon area and looked for Condor until 3:30 P.M., but saw no sign of them. I hauled a dead sheep from where a sheep shearing operation was going on in the Navajo valley to the top of the Navajo ridge and kept it under observation. Even though this sheep carcass was about two days old and smelling strongly no Buzzards came to it today even though upwards to a dozen of these birds were sailing about the area most of the day. A Golden Eagle came and fed on this carcass ~~off~~ for an hour, from two to three P.M.

The weather clear and cold with a brisk East wind blowing.

The man who operates the sheep-shearing project that is working in the Navajo, a Mr. Montalve, from Bakersfield, stated that his shearers were only processing 1700 or 1800 sheep a day where they should be doing more than 2000 were it not that the sheep are so poor, thus making for slower shearing of the wool.



California Condor

ben Mcmillan

15 March 1963

2329

Talked to The William Thomason and his wife today at the High school baseball game in Shandon - Mrs. Thomason is the Daughter of Henry Ludeke (late) of Parkfield and they still live on the Mustang Canyon Ranch where in years back Henry Ludeke saw Condor at various times. Mr. Thomason has never observed a Condor but his wife said she saw several Condor about Two Years ago in Mustang Canyon, 7 miles north of Parkfield, Monterey County, Calif.

I also talked to Babe Freeman who now owns the Hancock Ranch that is located about 10 miles North of Cholame, San Luis Obispo County, Calif. in the County of Monterey. Freeman has not seen Condor on the Hancock Ranch in the last Two Years, since he has owned it. Freeman knows Condor from having observed them on the Bockhorn Ranch at the head of the San Juan River, in S.L.O. Co. Calif.

at 9:30 p.m. I called Layton Hicks, in Three Rivers, California. Mr. Hicks, I was told by Peter Jordan of M.V.Z., has a timber stand in the Grouse Valley area above Three Rivers, and it is from this area that Mr. Hicks has observed Condor on many ^{occasional} ~~occasions~~. Mr. Hicks told me tonight that he always sees Condor in the Grouse Valley area in the Summer and late spring months and that he will gladly help us in any way he can in the present Condor survey.



california condor

ben Mcmillan

17 March, 1963

329

It showered throughout the day Yesterday and some snow fell in the evening at the higher elevations. Snow covered the Diabalo Range and the Temblors as well as the North slopes of the higher points of the Santa Lucia Range. It was cold and windy Yesterday and throughout Today.

after talking with James Sinton last night in Shandon about Condor, a ~~called~~^{phoned} his mother-in-law - who lives at the Avenales Ranch to the south and east of Pozo, Calif. and who told Mr. Sinton of Condor that Jack McGovern had observed lately on the Avenales Ranch. Over the phone, a asked if Mrs. Jane McClellan - would keep records of any Condor sightings in the Avenales Ranch area and mail said records to me. She consented to do so.

The Avenales Ranch is located about 7 or 8 miles south of the Bear-Trap Rocks on Machessa Mountain, at the headwaters of the Salinas and Alamo Rivers -



California Condor

Ben McMillan

19 March 1963

It was frosty this morning and a brisk east wind did not make the cold any more bearable. I drove to Gan's at 9:30 A.M., picked up the spotting scope and went to the Navajo. Via Jack Ponds and French Camp. As I entered the Navajo field, from the Pammatta Ranch, I noticed a shepherd walking among the dead Cottonwood trees, that are in an old bed of the Navajo Creek, with a gun in his hands. I drove over to him and asked if he was hunting ducks (patos) or bears (osos). He informed me in Spanish that he was hunting small birds and rabbits, that he cooked for his meals. He spoke of eating, and thinking that he wanted a ride to his Trailer so he could get his lunch, I took him the one-half mile across the Creek-bed to his trailer. Before entering the trailer he showed me the feathers of two Doves that he had shot yesterday and eaten. Going into the trailer he took a dressed Cottontail rabbit from the refrigerator and insisted that I let him cook it for me. This I declined stating that I had ^{already} ~~already~~ eaten. This shepherd then related to me the trouble he had on Saturday evening, last, when it turned very cold and rained, hailed and snowed. Using his arms to gesture and ~~running~~ ^{running} like sheep ~~he~~ he showed me how the newly sheared ewes reacted to this cold weather. They would run at full speed from one side of the valley to the other and before repeating the ^{course} ~~course~~, would stand shivering. Some succumbed to the cold ~~by~~ ^{by} just dropping in their tracks. This he displayed by first shivering and then relaxing and falling to the ground.

Over

California Condor Continued - 19 March 1963

Eben McMillan

Four Ewes, from his herd, died from the cold after having been shorn of their wool last Wednesday. This herder told me that when herding sheep in the Tehachapi Mts. in 1962 a cold spell hit just after the herd had been shorn and that 84 Ewes from his flock perished in one night.

I then drove to the camp of the Mexican Shepherd, that is located about 1/2 mile below the Carrisa-plains-Paso Robles highway in the Navajo canyon and was told that he lost 24 head of Ewes from his flock. These dead sheep were scattered about in the draws to the east of his Trailer. Great numbers of Turkey Vultures were feeding on them. The greatest concentration of these dead sheep were in a patch of Juniper bushes, at the head of a draw, about 1/4 mi east of his trailer. 8 dead Ewes could be reached with a stones throw from one spot. I then drove to the Shepherds Camp that is located south on Navajo Ridge, out towards the Lapanza Ranch. This man had lost one lamb from what he thought was a Coyote. He described it by saying Coyote, and then running his finger across his throat as if to say that the Coyote had opened the lambs throat. I then drove to the Shepherds Camp above the San Juan Ranch fence in The San Juan River. I saw one dead E near his fellows trailer. He was not present. I returned over the ridge and spent the next hour watching the numerous Turkey Vultures that kept coming and going to and from the sheep carcasses in the upper Navajo.

adult Condor

1 feather out of middle of

Right wing



Right wing

Left wing

at 3:00 p.m. I saw an adult Condor flying with several T. Vultures as though they were just emerging from a canyon to the north of me 1/2 mile away. ~~This bird~~ ^{The Condor} appeared to have just fed for its breast was very pronounced as it flew westward. It passed from the east to the west side of the Navajo

California Condor Continued 19 March-1963

Eben McMillan

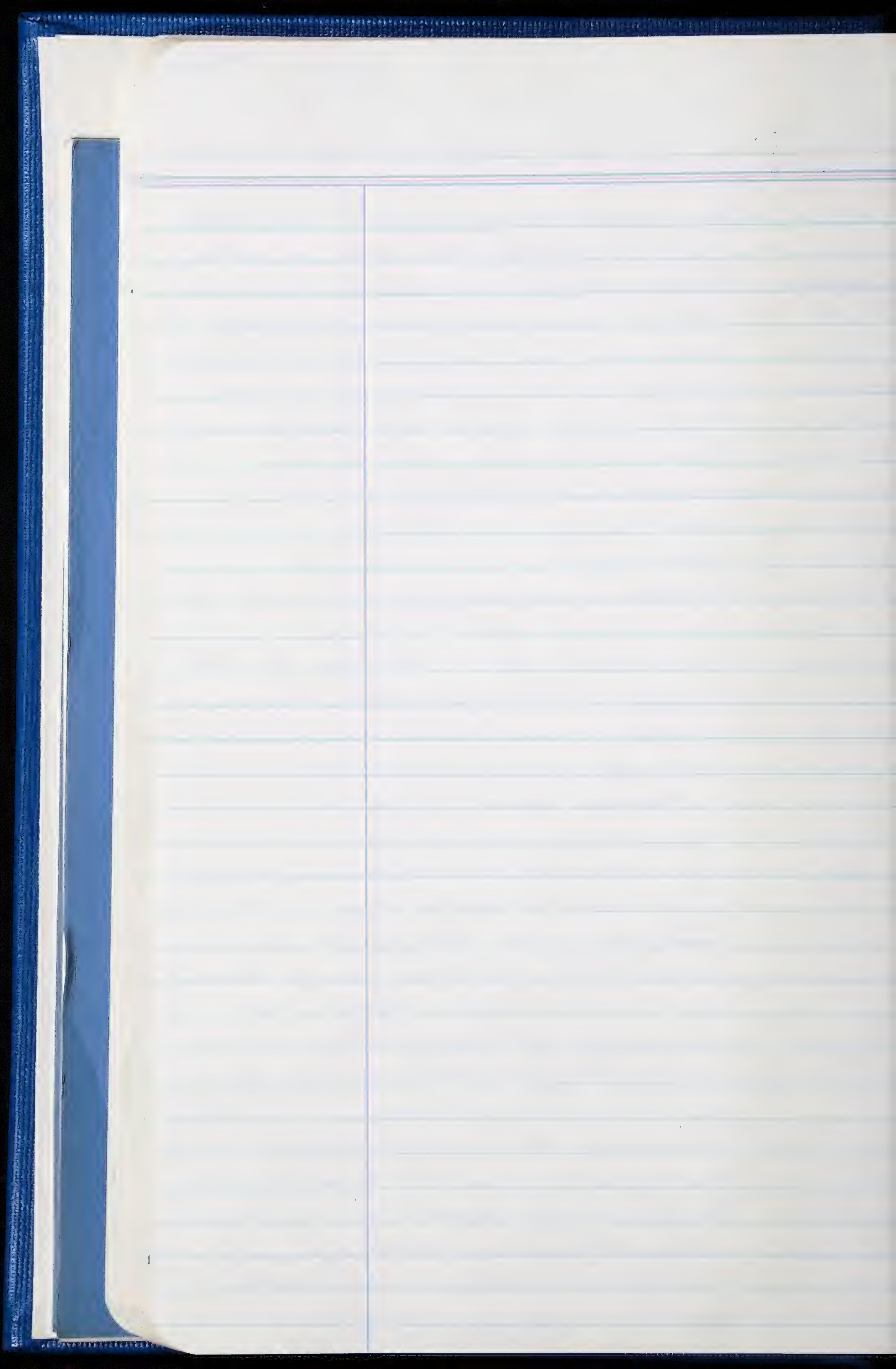
+ Airplane

Canyon and joined another flock of Turkey vultures there and wheeling about gained altitude. An airplane, (biplane) came from the southeast and circled above where the highway crosses the Navajo valley and returned from whence it came. The Condor circling above the area where the airplane turned about below, seemed to pay no attention to the airplane whatsoever. The airplane was at an altitude of about 400 feet from the ground as it flew about. The Condor was probably up about 800 feet.

At 3:15 P.M. the Condor returned to the East side of the Navajo valley, dropping down as it crossed, and then disappeared into the same brushy canyon from where it had first seemed to come. After five minutes the Condor, with several turkey vultures, came out of the canyon again, crossed the valley and circling about gained altitude in about the same location it had been circling when the Airplane came and went.

After gaining considerable altitude and drifting south west by west, with the strong East wind, the Condor then set its wings and soared for 6 minutes on a straight ^{course} ~~course~~ west by southwest until it joined with several smaller hawklike birds that were circling. The Condor circled here for a few moments then seemed to drift north westward for about 30 seconds when it joined another flock of circling hawklike birds. It ~~circled~~ ^{circled} here briefly, gaining much height. It was now that I moved my body a bit, lost the bird in the scope and could not relocate it. I then drove above the brushy canyon from where the Condor had first appeared. I here found two Ewe sheep that appeared to have died of the cold. They had been well eaten by scavengers.

It was 3:30 P.M. when I lost sight of the Condor. One feather was missing from the right wing of this Condor about the center, ~~lost wing~~



California Condor

Elben McMillan

20 March - 1963

No frost and warmer this morning, but the East wind still blows. I arrived in the Navajo valley at 9:30^{AM} via the San Juan river - and French Camp. No Turkey vultures were feeding on the three dead sheep in the lower Navajo so I drove up the valley to the Mexicans Camp. Two Turkey vultures came in and circled about the draw where several dead sheep are at 9:45^{AM}. By 10:00 A.M. about 20 Buzzards were wheeling about the area. These Buzzards seemed to converge on this area from all quarters - Not appearing to come from any particular direction.

I drove to the top of Navajo ridge and chatted with one of the shepherds who was camped there. He told me that no more sheep had died from the cold, but that the French shepherd whose Trailer is in the San Juan River down next to the San Juan Ranch fence had lost three lambs to Coyotes last night.

I then drove S.W. along Navajo ridge to highway - on which I drove to Navajo valley and down Navajo canyon to the well that is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below the highway - then took the ridge behind the ^{well} up to a point back of the Mexicans Trailer where I could watch the Buzzards and look for Condor. At 11:30 A.M. I got a quick look at an adult Condor as it flew along the top of the Navajo ridge $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the north. It then disappeared behind a ridge. I drove to the ridge top and took the road leading down towards Cedar Spring. When half way down to the San Juan River I saw Two Condor circling above the river about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Cedar Spring. I got the scope out and located one Condor but could not locate the other bird. This one Condor I was watching appeared to have just fed for its ~~breast~~ breast looked very extended. While in the scope it flew steadily to the East (over).

California Condor

Eben McMillan

20 March 1963

until it disappeared from sight in the distance. I then drove down the river where I met the French shepherd who told me of seeing one big bird turning and turning in the air above him one hour before. This shepherd took me to a place in the river bottom, about 1/2 mile north of Cedar spring, and showed me the carcass of two 1/2 grown lambs that he said Coyotes had killed last night. It looked as though Coyotes had done the killing, the throat of one was slashed and a pool of blood had calked and covered the sand - the other showed no signs of being cut at the throat, but its stomach had been eaten out. This was not done last night for the blood was dry and calked and the meat about the open ~~stomach~~ ^{stomach} cavity of the other was dry and hard - so these lambs must have been killed two or three nights ago. As we were looking at these sheep I saw the Condor with the three feathers missing from the end of the long wing circling about 1/2 mile to the west. As he watched this bird it ~~disappeared~~ ^{disappeared} in a westerly direction. I took the shepherd to his Trailer, ^{from} where he pointed to brush covered hill behind it, where he said a Coyote came and chased his sheep yesterday evening. This Coyote came near the sheep about even though he yelled and threw rocks at it. This Coyote appeared to have no fear of this herder or else it was overcome with the thrill of the chase.

I drove west to the Navajo and ~~searched~~ ^{searched} the area about the Navajo, but saw no more sign of Condor.

River

3 feathers missing -

3 Rivers
Potentially

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

21 March, 1963

329

Jan and I packed the necessary supplies in my pickup truck and left for the East side of the San Joaquin Valley at 8:30 A.M.. The Temperature was moderate and high cirrus clouds veiled the Northwestern sky as we rolled down the Palo Prieta Canyon, noticing the upper Eagle on its nest and 6 deer in a canyon to the west of the Palo Prieta Cottonwoods.

A sheep shearing operation was in progress near the small trees that stand in the south and east quarter of the crossroads of highways 41 and 33 in the Kettleman Plains.

We stopped in Fresno to purchase a large luggage box, then drove out to the Fish and Game Headquarters on Shaw Avenue, in East Fresno, to see Dave Sellock, but finding him in a conference we drove on out 41 highway to a cafe that stands to the left of highway 41, about one mile past the 4 corners where 41 and the road from Madera to Friant cross. We chatted with the lady there in hopes of getting information on who owned the rangeland to the ^{North} ~~South~~ of ~~the~~ her place, for it was on these lands, ~~that~~ May 24, 1959 that I saw 19 Condor feeding on a dead calf about 1/2 mile west of highway 41, ~~that~~ she had ^{seen} ~~had~~ ^{condors}. We drove on to the U.S. Forest Service, San Joaquin Experimental Range at O'neals, California where we found no one with information on Condor in that area. After chatting with two of the personnel at this place for an hour, we returned to 4 corners and took the road to Friant where we stopped for lunch in sight of the Friant Dam. It was here we saw ^{our} ~~the~~ first Turkey vultures of the day. Many of these birds seemed to be migrating northward along the low foothills of the Sierra Nevada range.

California Condor. - ~~Page~~ March 21 Continued.

Eben Mcmillan

we continued on southeastward, following the low foothills whenever possible until coming to Lemon Cove, California, where we turned into the mountains following the Kaweah river.

Coming along the foothills from Friant we thought the area in general to look very ^{good} as prospective Condor hunting habitat. Good ~~sized~~ sized livestock ranches were noted mostly cattle, and the grass was in good shape, allowing for ample forage.

A Golden Eagle was noted circling above an orange grove that was adjacent to the rocky foothills, at the mouth of Kaweah Canyon and another adult ~~Golden~~ ^{Golden} Eagle was observed circling a hilltop $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before we reached the Town of Three Rivers.

At Three Rivers we talked with Layton Hicks who teaches in the Three Rivers School and who owns land in grouse valley and Blue Ridge, between Three Rivers and Springville, and where Condors have been seen many times. Mr. Hicks told us of first seeing Condor in the Springville area about 28 or 29 years ago. He stated of an attempt, by himself, to shoot a Condor with a 22 rifle. The Condor was sitting in a pine tree, quite close when Mr. Hicks, then quite young, fired his 22 rifle at the Condor and he thought he hit the bird for the ~~water~~ but made a loud plop when it hit, but the Condor flew away following the report of the gun, Mr. Hicks never knowing if it were hit or not. Layton Hicks also told us of having one of the State Personnel, who ~~was~~ ^{was} hired to man the Blue Ridge fire lookout, state that he was going to shoot one of the Condor if he ever got a good chance. Mr. Hicks informed him this would be unlawful. This, he thought, may have prevented this fellow from shooting a Condor.

Shooter at Condor
Shooter at Condor

Would shoot
Condor

Layton Hicks thought he first started seeing Condor
Cont.

California Condor. March 21-1963 Continued.

Eden McMillan

1329

on Blue Ridge perched in a tall dead Jeffrey Pine Tree. He said they would remain in the tree until he ~~would~~^{would} come quite close and on one ~~occasion~~^{occasions} he moved up and hammered on the trunk of the tree they were in before they flew away. This was quite early of a morning. We thought they came to Blue Ridge to roost in the summer time mostly and that he doubts they nest in that area.

Mr. Hicks promised to phone us when he sees Condor again. He also offered us free access to his property in Grouse Valley anytime we care to enter that area.

We then visited with a Mrs. Muriel Kenwood who lives on the south fork of the Kaweah ^{River} in the Grouse Valley area, and who was today working in the Singing Waters Cafe in Three Rivers. Mrs. Kenwood is of pioneer stock and was born in the Three Rivers area. She knows Condor and spoke of seeing them on numerous ~~occasions~~^{occasions}, all in the Blue Ridge area, excepting on one ~~occasion~~^{occasion}, when she saw a Condor in the back country on a back trip.

Mrs. Kenwood professed more concern for wildlife than do most people and she was much concerned about Condors when the deer season is in force and the great numbers of city gunners, who seem to have no thought of responsibility, are about in the Condor area.

Mrs. Kenwood also will phone us if she sees Condor. She also offered her help to us in any way she can.

We and ~~a~~ camped overnight with relatives of his wife May, who live near the Three Rivers Golf Links.



Eben McMillan

22 March - 1963

It threatened rain throughout the night, but none fell. Ake and I drove to Springville, via the foothills, from Three Rivers, arriving there via the Yokoh Valley Road, at 9:15 a.m. We chatted with the U.S. Forest Service personnel in the Springville office without getting much information. With their directions we went to the home of Donald (Dode) Sutch, a longtime native of the Tule River region, and a person from whom we had purchased Redwood fence posts when we came with Carl Koford to see the Condor Nest in the Redwood Tree many years ago. Mr. Sutch spends most of the summer months on the Tule Indian Reservation working for a Lumber Company, in which occupation he hires and works many Indians native to the reservation.

Mr. Sutch, or some of the people he works with, sees Condors at times every summer. He will either phone us or drop us a card if he sees Condors at any time.

Donald Sutch knew an Indian who years ago killed a Condor and chopped its wings separate from its body and tacked them on the wall of a shed near his cabin. Sutch claimed to have seen them and that those wings alone ~~the~~ spanned 13 1"x12" redwood boards. This would have to have been a space covered of near 12 feet. For allowing for the boards to shrink, they, counting the gap left between them would have been at least 12 inches covered to the board.

Donald Sutch spoke of seeing 7 or 8 birds together at times - This corresponds to Layton Hicks seeing 6 or 7 birds together. Mr. Sutch thought Condor stayed in the Redwood belt at or near the 6500 ft. elevation - over, cont.

of the central Sierra Nevada. He also said the Indians of the Tule Reservation know and see Condor. I asked about the rumor we had heard regarding an Indian on the Tule Reservation, who some 15 years ago had possessed a young Condor she had found on the Reservation. Mr. Sutch had heard of no word that would bring the matter to his mind.

Mr. Sutch and the others speak of only seeing Condor in summer and late spring. I am thinking this could be due to no one being in the mountains to speak of, due to snow and bad weather.

From Mr. Sutch's we drove to the home of Till Bryant, in Springville. Mrs. Bryant was born in this area over 70 years ago. Her brother ^{Bob} Maxon lives near her and was at her house when we called as was her sister, Mrs. Alex Cook and her cousin Mrs. Camp who lives in ~~Exeter~~ Exeter.

Mrs. Till Bryant had seen Condor in 1921 and 1936 in the Blue Ridge area of Grouse Valley where her husband and she ran goats. Brother Bob Maxon remembers of Condor coming to feed on pigs that had died of cholera. His folks lived near Exeter. He has seen Condor throughout the years he has lived in the general area of Three Rivers and ~~Springville~~ ^{Springville}.

Mrs. Camp, who lives near Exeter, had, in past years, spent considerable time on a mining claim near Coulterville, in Mariposa County, where she was sure she had seen Condor. A Mr. Walter McLean, who lives 8 miles above Coulterville on old highway 132, is a close friend of Mrs. Georgia Camp. He knows everything that goes on in the Coulterville area and would be helpful to us. Mrs. Camp felt Mrs. Camp's maiden name was Carder.

We will get more information from these people later.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

25 March, 1963

1329

a thin, high cover of hazy clouds covered the sky and a brisk, cool east wind was blowing as I drove up the San Juan river to the Navajo Canyon. A dead Ewe was inside the sheep corral on east side of Navajo Creek.

Making the rounds of the Shepherd's Camps, the Frenchmen, camped below Cedar Spring on the river told me he saw 5 Condor yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. He also said no more sheep had been killed by Coyotes and he now thinks a Wildcat cut the throat of a lamb on the hill behind his camp last week.

The herder on the ridge towards La Panza told me a Ewe had died this morning, on the flat above the Oil Mud Spring, on the river.

Driving to the river I noticed several Turkey vultures flying about and an immature golden eagle was circling to the west of the Navajo ridge top. As I drove out on the highway, from the Navajo ridge, I noticed several Turkey vultures feeding on the carcass of a ^{ewe} sheep that lay about 200 yards north of the road and at the mouth of a short draw that came in from the Northeast. These vultures flew into the air as I passed on the road. Driving on to the river I located the dead sheep the herder ~~referred~~ ^{referred} to, ate my lunch ~~at~~ and returned to the highway on which I ~~drove~~ ^{drove} back up to the Navajo ridge road ~~not~~ noticing several Turkey vultures circling a bit to the south of where the dead sheep ^{was} ~~was~~. ^{at.} One Turkey vulture was feeding on the sheep carcass. This was about 12:40 P.M.

con't

-food-

I drove up Navajo ridge and down to the upper Navajo well near where all the sheep had died from cold a few days back. Several Turkey vultures were still about the area some of which were feeding on a lamb carcass. Most of the frozen sheep carcasses were still intact never having been fed upon by any scavengers and the area reeked with the smell of rotting flesh.

I then drove to the highway, via Navajo creek, and headed East. As I passed the sheep carcass. Referred to before, an adult condor flushed from it and beating its wings frantically flew down the canyon towards the La Panza, staying just to the north of the road as it went and gaining little altitude until it had flown about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, when it crossed the road in front of me at about 200 ft. altitude and commenced to circle and gain height. I stopped the pickup and tried a 35 mm snap of this bird only to find I was out of film. While this condor ~~made~~ made several circles above me I clearly made out a gap in its left wing where the 8th primary had fallen and had now only grown back in about $\frac{2}{3}$ of its final length. This bird had a well defined grey bar on the back of the wings. This bird when first seen seemed very frightened but once above me it seemed confident of itself. It was 1:55 P.M. when this bird was first sighted. After circling for about 5 minutes it returned and circled above the ~~carcass~~ sheep carcass for about 5 minutes when it flew away towards the Southeast. I watched it going away with the 20 power scope. It would ~~have~~ have in a direct line for perhaps five minutes then circle several times, gaining altitude, and

Probably seen near
the Navajo

With a dip of its wings and a short dive it would sail on.

When this bird had traveled so far up the San Juan River that it was rather difficult to keep sight of in the glass, it suddenly turned about and came soaring back on a direct course down the San Juan River, never stopping to circle and maintaining a steady speed that soon brought it out to the place above the river where the La Panza Bridge crosses. Thinking this bird to be heading for the dead sheep that was lying on the flat $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the bridge I drove to that place in hopes of finding the bird there. I should mention that when I ~~lost~~^{lost} sight of this bird it was then 2:40 P.M.

Not finding any birds about this sheep, in fact when I walked up to investigate the presence of any Condor at this sheep carcass, I noticed one of its legs waving in the air. Upon closer examination I found this sheep was not dead, but had been lying here since early morning still capable of moving its hind foot now and then. It could possibly go on this way and some Herder could find an eagle or Coyote starting to eat on it and not knowing it was ~~helplessly~~^{helplessly} incapacitated, except for a ~~small~~ movement now and then, spread the word that Predators had killed it.

Returning to the highway and driving west I passed the area where the 1st Condor had

california condor, continued

Eben McMillan

25 March 1963

Condor

been feeding, this only about 20 minutes after I had left this same area. As I drove past two adult Condor ran from the carcass up seeing my car, but not taking flight. Several Turkey Vultures were standing at some distance from the carcass. I drove by and stopped my pickup truck, out of sight, at the entrance to Navy field. I then took Telephoto Camera and binocular and walked along a ridge, keeping out of sight of the spot where the Condors were. The Buzzards were flying out of the draw as I approached and a car passed on the highway. As I approached the end of this ridge I saw the Condors Loping up another ridge that went up from where the sheep carcass was and towards the Northwest. On first sight several small Oak trees were between me and the Condors, more or less ~~hiding~~ hiding me from sight. Continuing to walk, trot, lope, and stop now and then, both Condor continued up this ridge and came out in full view of me. By now I was sitting down and snapping film of the birds and watching them now and then one of these birds would stop, stretch forward, and rub its neck on the ground or grass. This was done four times. The birds now appeared to see me but paid no particular attention. They were very agile on foot and could run up the hill easily. The bird behind would open its wings holding them aloft when running quickly. Their legs appeared an ashy grey and contrasted considerably against green grass. The light bar, on top of the wings ~~and~~, was easily observable. The birds (Condor) gave the impression of being very intelligent, walking

up the ridge they seemed to watch each other. if one got any distance ahead it would look back towards the other and appear to wait for the trailing one to catch up. They acted like two people on a hike.

These two Condors paid me no particular attention with only a casual glance my way even though I was now out in plain sight of them, ~~and~~ aiming the Telephoto lens at them, and putting the binoculars to my eyes. When the Condor reached the top of the ridge they were climbing they were now about 200 yards from where I sat. and had traveled about 150 yards from the sheep carcass and more or less approaching me slightly as they travelled. They walked about a bit on top of the knoll then one of the birds raised its wings up, held them thusly for 5 or 6 seconds, then hopping down the hillside, a time or two, it took to the wing, beating its way down the draw between where they had hiked up the ridge and where I was sitting. The second bird followed about 5 seconds behind the first, they both passing behind some trees on my ridge.

The Two Condor flew out to the Southeast about a quarter of a mile and then started circling and gaining altitude drifted farther towards the Southeast.

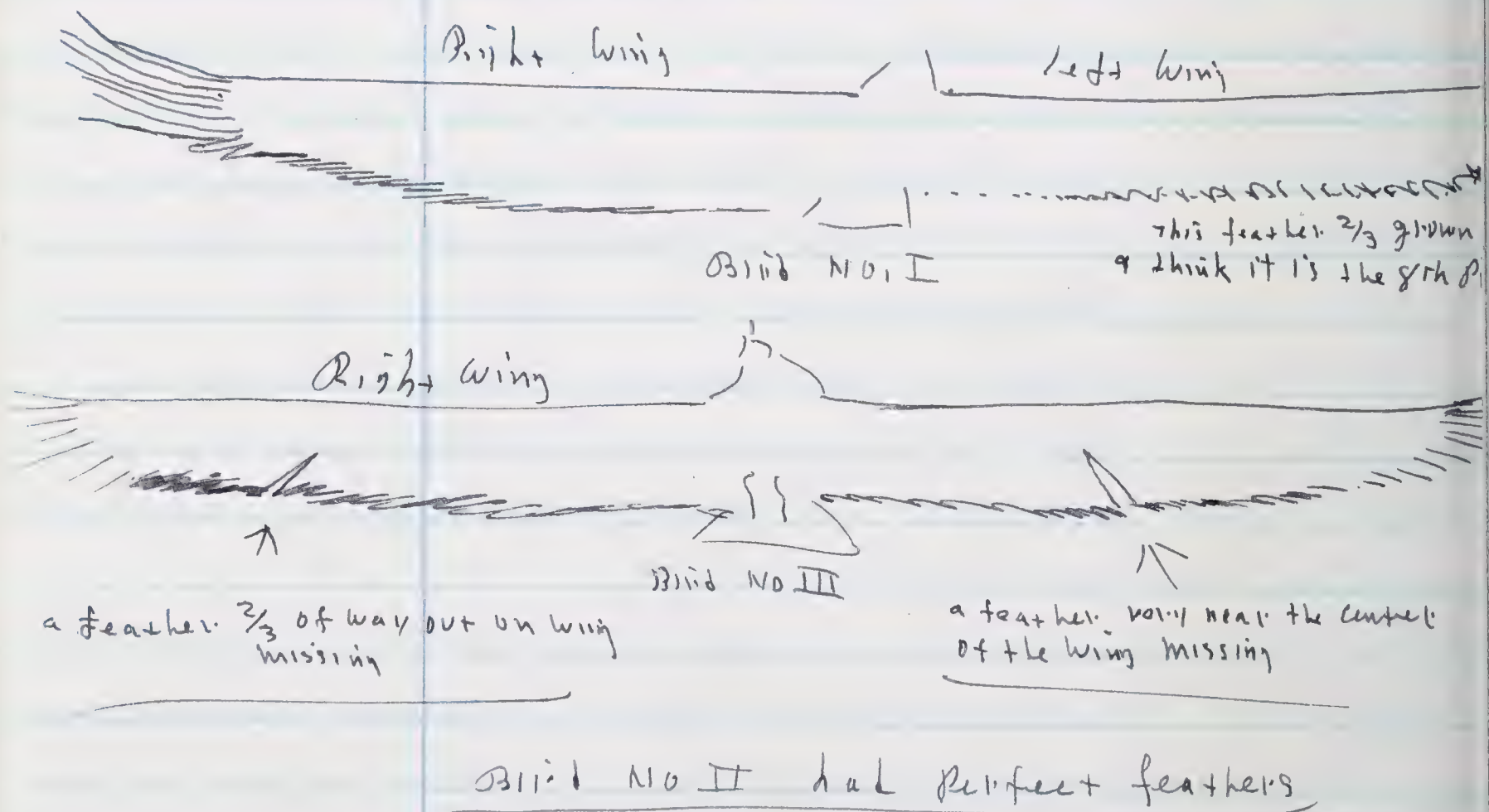
As these two Condor were circling ~~another~~ another Condor flew in from the east. I had noticed this bird circling high to the East as I walked down the ridge

California Condor

Eben McMillan

25 March 1963

to see the two Condors at the carcass earlier, but had not noticed it afterwards being too occupied with observing the activities of the two birds. This Condor that now flew in from the East had the same gap in the left wing that the first bird found feeding on this sheep carcass had. I will term it Bird NO. I the diagrams below. One of the two Condors hovering below NO I. showed no gaps in its wings feathers; I will term this bird NO 2. and the other of the two last at the carcass had a feather missing from the middle of both wings. This bird will be termed NO III below in the diagrams. all three birds circled for 10 minutes drifting southward and when last seen were flying away southeast by east.



California Condor

ben mcmillan

26 March-1963

1329

After preparations, I left for ~~the~~ Jamosa and points east. Passing down the Bitterwater Valley I saw cattlemen shipping out their stock from the corrals across road from Fred Twisselmann Ranch. Other cattle were being held and supplemented on hay in the hopes, I suppose, that rains will come soon and rejuvenate the grasses that are now all but disappeared. The sheep in the Blackwells Corner-Lost Hills area are being fed concentrates and roam throughout the area during the day, always on the move, searching for enough roughage to sustain themselves.

I drove to the sheep area to the ~~west~~ east of Jamosa that extends well into the foothills, mostly giving way to cattle operations as soon as the oak belt is reached. I found this sheep range in as bad shape as Blackwells Corner-Lost Hills area. This area is more marginal due to the hills and ~~the~~ canyons, that being on a rather sharp angle, in places, has suffered unusual erosion in years past when this range has been badly trodden by sheep under the same conditions as it now faces. Holding the sheep on this range, after forage has diminished, waiting for the mountain ranges in the Sierra Nevada range to open up; this probably happens every spring when rains are scant here; which is probably not unusual.

I passed through this sheep range and stopped at the Kern County Forest Service Fire Station at Woodie, Calif. Here I met Mr. Bill Easton, a native of this area and who knows Condor. He readily consented to send us records of his observations. In discussing Condor with

over

*Continued
Bakersfield*

California Condor, Continued

Eben McMillan

26 March-1963

Gassed Condor

Mr. Easton, I was told by him that sometime back, a Trapper in the area about Kern River had found a Condor at one of his Coyote sets. The Condor had been gassed but not dead. Mr. Easton told me he heard the Condor was sick for quite a while and that he had not heard if it survived or not.

While at the Kern Fire Station I called Marion Vincent told me of seeing one young Condor on his ranch February 28-1963 and 9 Condor flying above highway 65 and north of the Pozo Creek on 16 March.

I then drove to the Sheep area east of Famosa and talked with Shepherds there who thought they had seen Condor. They showed me fresh carcasses of Sheep that had not been eaten.

In the evening after I had cooked my own supper, I visited one of the Basque Shepherds in his trailer house. His name, Benito Grisanti, I was dark when he brought his flock to the bedgrounds near his Trailer and he was cooking his supper when I arrived. His supper consisted of sliced Potatoes, Onions, Garlic and Carrots that were fried in deep fat and held in a small pot and kept warm while pieces of mutton, cut from the front quarter of a sheep, and it also fried after which all were thrown together in the pot and gulped down with generous portions of wine that was swilled from a goat skin bag. He is 21 years old and has been in America two years, having one more year to go on his 3 year contract to the ~~American~~ National Wool Growers Association. He was flown here from Madrid Spain, and farmed out, by the Nat. Wool Growers ^{Association} ~~Association~~, to Mr. Joe Mendiburo, of Bakersfield, who pays him \$200 ^{per} month for 364 days in the year. He told me maybe gets one day off in a year. His food and lodging and wine are furnished by his employer's ~~and wine~~. All meat I have seen, consumed by these Shepherds, is made up of

Next Page

7/11/63

California Condor - Continued

Eben McMillan

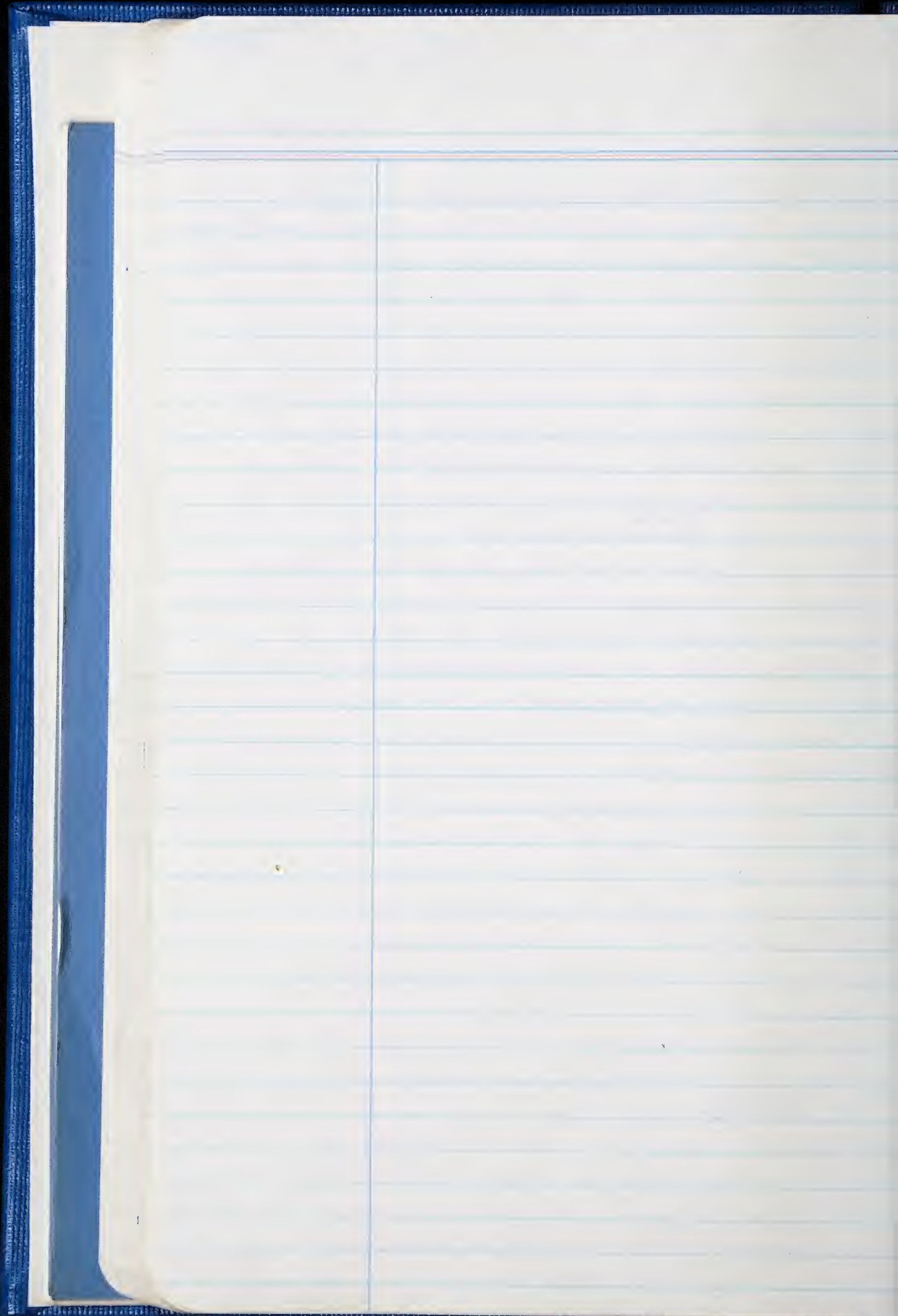
26 March 1963

1329

Mutton - Potatoes - Onions - Garlic and ^{Carrots} ~~Carrots~~. They drink lots of wine that costs the Sheep owner \$1.25 per gallon. This shepherd leaves his trailer at sunrise and follows the sheep all day long with little rest until he takes them to the bed ground in late evening. He told me the sheep travel much more than is usually the case if they have plenty of grass. He must return to Spain after the end of his 3 year contract - The \$600⁰⁰ air flight to and return is taken from his wages.

I talked ~~to~~ to this shepherd's brother who was caring for a flock of sheep nearby. His conditions were the same.

no coyotes ^{or} Foxes, nor wildcats, are ever observed by these shepherds in this area. They did say that many Coyotes, Foxes and wildcats are in the Sierra region near Mono Lake where they go with the sheep in summer.



Eben McMillan

California Condor

27-March-1963

1324

I put my bed on a ridge 1/2 mile south of the Shepherd's trailerhouse that I visited with last night. This herder's flock of 1100 Ewes passed by where I slept a bit before sunrise. They were walking fast, not feeding - and all in a compact mass. The Shepherd came by about 5 minutes later hurrying along to catch up with the flock.

It was cloudy and threatening rain. a few drops fell as I cooked my breakfast. I located the sheep carcasses, the herder had pointed out to me yesterday, and watched them until 12:00 noon. Several Turkey Buzzards came in to feed on these carcasses, but no Eagles or Condor.

In afternoon I drove south through the hills, looking for dead sheep and Condor. One fresh sheep carcass was seen at which 5 Buzzards were feeding. I talked to another Shepherd, here, who had never cared for sheep until he had come to America from Spain on a three year contract to the National Wool Growers in Bakersfield. He said that if more rain does not ~~come~~ come soon and grass is not revived enough to furnish the sheep with some forage, the herds will be trucked to Mojave and then driven slowly up the Owens River valley to Mono Lake, a trip taking about 8 weeks. This herder comes ~~from~~ from the same community as does Benito ~~Grasatti~~ ^{Grasatti}, the herder with whom I visited last evening.

Driving down the Pozo River, enroute home, in evening, I saw large numbers of Turkey Buzzards going to roost in cottonwood trees that grow in the river bottom and are located about one mile above highway 65 crossing of Pozo Creek.

Stormy conditions prevailed in evening, but little rain -

food

14+ Condor 12:00

Feed



California Condor

Eben McMillan

28 March

327

George Newsom, of Priest Valley - on line between Monterey and San Joaquin Counties, called at 1:00 P.M. today in reference to engaging me to show my film at the Priest Valley Farm Bureau in June. In the course of the conversation he told me of seeing a Condor, in a field, in Priest Valley, about two days ago, that acted queerly. Newsom said the Condor was across a ditch from him, but that he drove up quite close to it in a Jeep and that the Condor stood opening its mouth as a turkey will on a hot day and paid little attention to he or the Jeep. Newsom said he left the area with the Condor still sitting in the place where he first saw it and has not been back since. I ^{re-phoned} ~~re-called~~ Newsom at 9:30 P.M. this evening, encouraging ^{him} ~~Newsom~~ to keep watch for this bird and should he see it again, dead or alive, to call me collect, immediately.

Mr. Newsom spoke of the Condors yellow head. This gives some evidence that this was a Condor, along with the fact that he mentioned having seen the Condor that used to be on the Cholame flats when he worked there some 20 odd years ago. He mentioned having seen three Condor on a Cattle Trough on the side of the Cholame valley next to Gene Rambo's property - Condor were about this area in those years.



Iben McMillan

29 March 1963

A typical spring morning; warm, damp, calm and clear. The rain of March 27th, which gave an inch of precipitation to this area did not produce so well in the Bitterwater Valley, nor in the Blackwells Corner, Lost Hills area. Good rains fell east of the drainage slough, to the east of Lost Hills. Having heard of an airplane being forced down, with loss of life to its two occupants, when it collided with a large bird in the Granite Station area to the North and East of Bakersfield, and hearing, on the radio, that the bird was thought to be a Buzzard, I stopped and phoned the Sheriff in Bakersfield, as I passed by Famoso, on my way to Sheep Pastures East of Famoso. After several phone calls that gave no positive identification of this bird, I drove to the Airport in Bakersfield, where the Director of Civil ~~air~~ aeronautics Administration, Mr. Clyde Boughton, who had been conducting the investigation into the above mentioned airplane accident, sent me to the Hornkohl ^{LABORATORY} ~~laboratory~~ in Bakersfield, to look at and identify the bird in question, that to me, had been ~~referred~~ ^{referred} to as a Goose, a Buzzard, and a Cormorant. It turned out to be a ♂ Common Loon in full adult plumage, weighing 7.9 pounds and being in remarkably good condition after meeting up with, and downing, an airplane. The lower mandible was broken off about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length in towards base and a deep gash had opened the left side and breast. The left Testes was found even though much damage was evident in the ~~stomach~~ ^{Stomach} cavity. This ~~testis~~ ^{testis} was not measured. It appeared to be more than $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long.

over

California Condor, Continued Eben Mcmillan

29 March, 19

I drove out North and East of Bakersfield to the Sheep Country by lunchtime. Four fresh carcasses of sheep were seen, but no Condor. It had rained considerably in this area and already the grass is pushing up and turning green again. The sheep seem more contented. Two black dogs had killed several sheep this morning in one of the flocks the range near highway 65.

Several flocks of 15 + Turkey Buzzards were passing on northward high above the sheep country to the East of Famosa.

A small flock (7 or 8) Mountain Plover were seen flying across the roadway in front of my car in the Bitterwater Valley at 7:30 A.M.

California Condor

Ben McMillan

~~30 March 1963~~
31 March 1963

1329

Gregory and I drove to Navajo, via San Juan and French Camps. Five of the shearherders were gathered together, at 9:00 A.M., in the house trailer near the sheep pens, in the Navajo. All were drinking ~~Totals~~ together while their flocks were scattered along the top of the ridge. The Frenchman told us that a coyote had killed a large lamb in one of the Camps to the northwest of his ~~trailerhouse~~ trailerhouse yesterday morning. We saw a few Buzzards gathering about the area as we drove to the Cedar Spring area to check on the Frenchman's report. Not finding any carcass we returned to the far south-east camp on the ridgetop where the herder there told us he had seen one Condor yesterday afternoon circling above the ridgetop to the south of his camp. Another shepherd (Pedro) who came to visit this camp, while we were there, told us of a ewe that had died on a hillside south of his camp yesterday. We drove to this location and set up a watch. Buzzards came to this carcass quite steadily after 11:00 A.M.. As many as 7 being about the carcass at one time but always some coming and some leaving. Also upwards to 6 Ravens fed on this Ewe carcass during the day.

here

food

at 1:00 P.M. I drove to Cedar Canyon section of San Juan River and hunted for the Lamb carcass, finding it after an hour of searching. ^{a shepherd told me of,} 4 Buzzards were at the remains of this carcass that had been dragged about a good deal. A sizable patch of sand was colored with blood near where this lamb had been killed. Stomach remains of grass, in heaps, were

food

scattered about where the blood was. Signs of dragging were evident from where the blood was to where the remains were. Most of the meat had been taken and only the hide and bones remained, although neither of the hind legs had been boned out as seemed to have been the case where eagles or Condors have fed on lamb carcasses.

We left the Nevada area at 4:00 p.m., with observing a Condor not a Golden Eagle.

In the early morning, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the sky was mostly clear and the temperature mild; but a raw North wind came up at 11:00 a.m. while low heavy clouds covered the sun, causing the temperature to drop rapidly and become quite cool.

Most of the Buzzards had left the area by 4:00 p.m.

At 4:40 p.m. while driving on road skirting the Southwest end of Soda Lake, on the Carrisa Plains an adult Golden Eagle came flying towards us, about 4 feet off the ground with about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Jack rabbit body in its talons. Flying into a stiff wind the Eagle sat down with its ^{prey} ~~body~~ about 50 yards in front of my car, and 50 feet from the roadway. As I drew even with the eagle I stopped the car. The Eagle glared at me for a few moments then flew up, and away without a rabbit remains.

Food

California Condor

Eben McMillan

3 April - 1963

1329

There was a light frost this morning. I drove to the Bear Trap Rocks area, arriving at the Lapanza Ranch at 8:00 AM. Budd Zimmermann told me he thought he had seen three Condor last week flying down the river, but that they were so high he couldn't be sure. I parked the pickup in the pass to the east of Beartrap Canyon, on the Avenales Cattle Co. property and hiked to a vantage point on the ridge above the Buzzard rocks by 9:15 AM. The Buzzard Rocks are those rocks which protrude from the top ^{of a ridge} ~~ridge~~ across the canyon and about 1/2 mile Northeast of the main Beartrap Outcrop.

I picked out a good point of vantage and took up a watch. The weather was mild with little wind and only a few hazy clouds were about. ~~At~~

Condor - At 10:40 AM, a Condor came from the main mass of Beartrap Rocks. I picked it up as it was half way across, and lit on the south cap of Buzzard Rock, about 300 yards to my north and a bit lower than I was. It was soaring when I saw it first and it made it to the rock without flapping its wings. As soon as it lit it opened its wings holding them thus for several minutes. Then it shook its feathers, in an ~~awkward~~ awkward rolling motion first with one wing, then the other, after which it commenced preening. At times it would have one wing closed and be preening while the other wing was held stretched out. The feathers of this bird when it first landed on the rock, appeared damp and sticky. It was only after 30 minutes of preening and sunning that they

over - Cont

Many Bear Traps

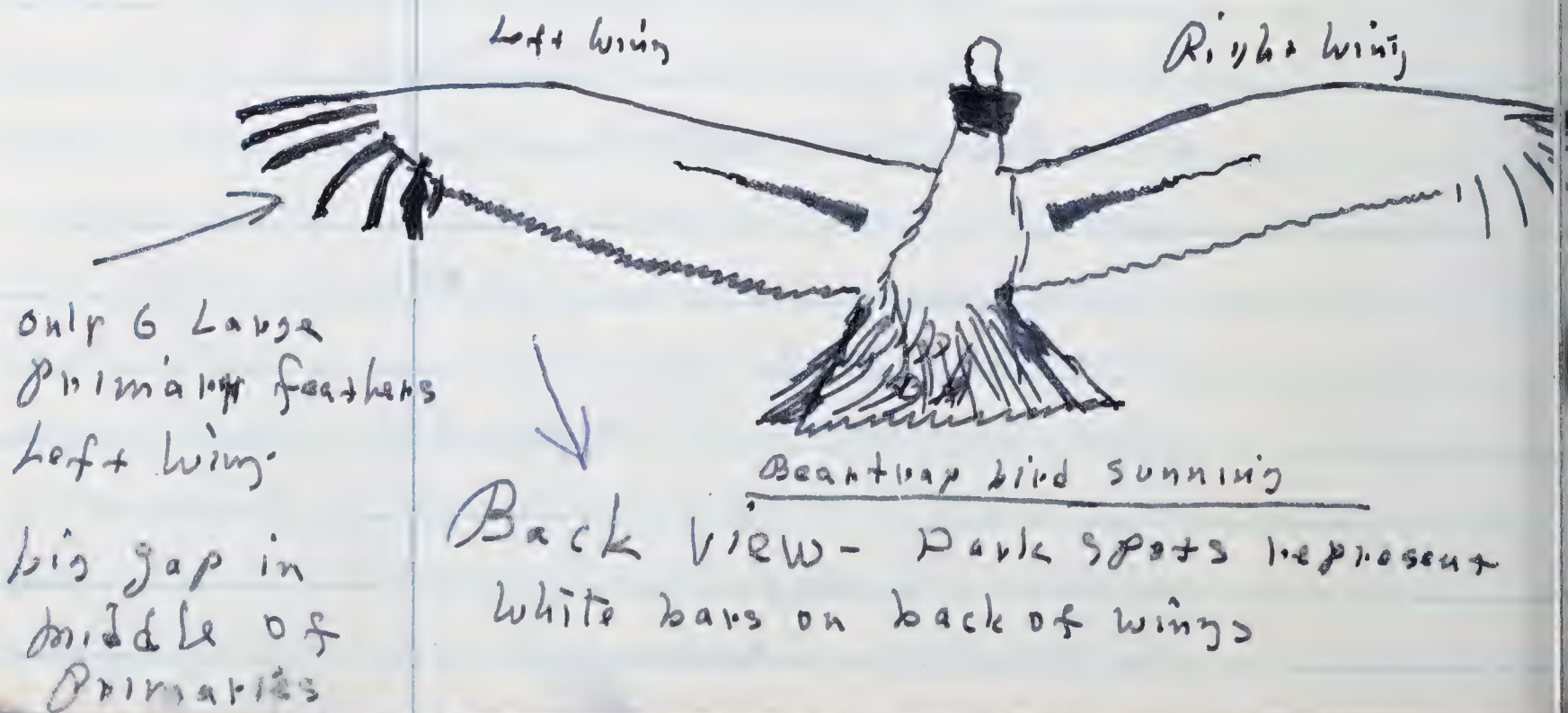
California Condor - Continued

3 April - 19

became fluffy and took on the sheen ~~one~~ one usually sees on condors in flight. This bird had two primaries missing in the left wing and the last primary before the secondaries start appeared to be only about $\frac{2}{3}$ grown out.

This Condor preened, fluffed and stretched its wings until 11:25 A.M. when it faced the edge of the Cañon rock, on which it had been perched, opened its wings and ~~was~~ ^{flew} out, and down, behind the rock. It stayed behind this rock, evidently dropping lower and crossing the Beartrap valley, for when I next picked it up in my glasses it was circling about one mile to the Northwest. It soon gained altitude and when last seen ~~was~~ disappeared behind the big rocks that are on top of the ridge above the Old Queen Bee Mine, heading west by northwest.

This bird had bright white under its wings but the white bar on the top of the wings was not definitely in fact when the wings were folded right the white bar couldn't be seen. The head was red but the neck buff covered most of the neck. The head was yellowish and appeared to be rather blue on the neck. See diagram below —



147107-1

1329

IAN came to my house at 4:00 A.M., loaded his camp gear and equipment into my pickup truck and we started for Fillmore, California, via Blackwell's Corner - Under a low overcast and cool. No rain had fallen in enough quantity to save the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that now is dry and desert like. The Coyama Valley is much of the same, at least along the road from Maricopa to Ventura - Signs of rainfall and green vegetation commenced to show as we entered the Sespe River drainage. Arrived in Fillmore at 7:30 A.M. Still thick overcast and cool. Met Jack Gaines at 8:00 A.M. at his home - Loaded our cameras - binoculars, scope and lunches into his Forest Service pickup truck and accompanied him up Pole Creek, thence on top of ridge that leads to Hopper Mountain - Past Hopper Mountain to a spot where the road passes to the west of the point where Carl Koford had his lookout shack where we stopped to await the lifting of the fog that hung in Hopper Canyon and along the top of the ridges.

Lush vegetative growth covered all productive soils from the time we left Fillmore - Jack Gaines remarked that this spring being the greatest growth he had noted since coming to Fillmore, in 1958.

While awaiting the lifting of the fogs - we hiked up the roadway a quarter mile only to find visibility no better - so we spent most of the day sitting in Mr. Gaines pickup talking. Jack Gaines gave us a complete ~~resume~~ ^{RESUME} of his life history - Born in Texas, his family moved to Oklahoma in his first year of life.

1207 117

May 22-19

Jack Gaines

Jack Gaines father died when he was three years of age, leaving his mother to support the eight children of which Jack was the 6th . . . The mother supported her family from the produce of a 20 acre farm. at seventeen years of age Jack joined the Navy and remained in this branch of the service ~~until~~ for five years . During this time he and an older brother, who was also in the Navy, sent home sufficient cash monthly where the mother was not only able to carry on, but did. With this allowance from her two sons, purchase one property where she is still able to maintain a home for herself in Oklahoma at the present time.

Jack Gaines was separated from Naval service at his request, in California. After resting and visiting relatives in this state he took a job with the Santa Fe Railroad Company that demanded that he do much traveling from place to place. Thinking it time he get married and realizing the dislikes a girl would have towards his migrant life, he left the ~~Santa~~ ^{Santa} Fe Company to work for a time as construction worker, operating earthmoving equipment, and here married to live in southern California.

When in the Navy Mr. Gaines had been a Cook; I think, being sargent of the mess.

Jack Gaines soon left construction work and took a job, in civil service, at Edwards Air Force Base, acting as fire control officer there. after some years at this job he applied for a job with the United States Forest Service - a job that he soon received and was elevated to step #2 due to his former experience ^{in fire control} and civil service recognition. After a year on this job, which

May 22-1963

329

Jack Gains

he enjoyed very much, being in charge of a fire suppression crew, he was one day in 1958 placed on the present job of part time fire and road maintenance man and part time Condor watching for the National Audubon Society. When first notified of this change, Mr. Gains told us, it was like a slap in the face to him, for he couldn't see himself watching out for birds. But he has now come to like the job - being more or less his own boss, coming and going as he pleases, meeting many important people, and still maintaining an active interest in machinery and managerial activities, for the Forest Service leaves him in complete charge of road and camp maintenance, in the corridor area, north of Fillmore, for which he is given an assistant.

Our reason for making this trip was to get a list of the definite nest sites that Jack Gains knows of. It being quite foggy throughout the day we had little chance to pin point the nest sites Jack claims to have under observation and when we could see the Hopper Canyon area, and the Hole in the Wall, Gains always seemed rather evasive as to exact nest holes. Perhaps we will do better on a ^{clear} ~~clear~~ day.

About 1:00 P.M. Jack Gains informed us that he had to get back early as he had to go to Bakersfield to a meeting. Where a ^{lobbyist} ~~representative~~ of Tote-Coat, or Trail-Bike, manufacturers, ~~was~~ from Sacramento, was to give all interested in Trail-bike machines information on the promotion of these bikes, as well as giving them the low down on where opposition to these trail-bikes is coming from, and how to deal with this opposition. It was here that we

22 May-1963

food

Learned Jack Gains works during his off hours for a Mr. Harter, of Fillmore, who has a Farm-machinery business in Fillmore, and through this business sells trail-bikes. Jack Gains has nothing but praise for Trail-bikes and mentioned that the one he now owns was given to him, by this Mr. Harter, for Gains activities in selling these machines. Gains also mentioned that this Mr. Harter, has, for several years, had a cattle lease for 50 cows in the Buckshot area in the Condor refuge corridor, as well as on the wildlife refuge. Gains mentioned having some trouble with this Mr. Harter, who he found at his Cow Camp near Buckshot. With a big fire in the center of his cattle corral there, and a crowd of friends who Mr. Harter was entertaining. Mr. Gains reprimanded Mr. Harter for having the fire and Mr. Harter was quite huffy. But Mr. Gains remarked to Jan and I that he ^{and} Mr. Harter are good friends now, and in fact Gains now works for Mr. Harter.

No birds being seen and the fog prevailing - at 2:45 PM, and returned to Fillmore and the Gains home. Where Jan and I took my pickup and drove up the Sespe to the Maple Creek Guard Camp of the U.S. Forest Service where we cooked our supper and retired for the evening.

ben McMillan

Condor project

23 May-1963

9am and I were up - had breakfasted and were waiting for Jack Gains who came to our camp at 8:00 A.M. 9am rode with Gains while I followed in my pickup, up the Sespe and past the locked ~~gate~~ Gate to Harter Cattle Camp and on to end of vehicular travel. Here we left the pickups and hiked up the bulldozed roadway to a Heliport on top of the brush covered knoll that looks into the Agua Blanca drainage and into the Cobblestone mountain area. Fog that had persisted up to 9:30 A.M. now cleared somewhat. At 10:00 A.M. 9am saw a Turkey Vulture flying to the south of us at a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away. 9am mentioned his identification of this bird as a Turkey Vulture. Jack Gains put his binoculars on this bird and immediately identified it as a Golden Eagle. We all three watched this bird as it circled ~~the~~ nearer to us. Jack Gains then exclaimed that the bird had a red head - and changed his identification from Golden Eagle to Condor, and on the strength of it having no white under the wings, placed it as a Young Condor. This bird circled within 200 yards of us and then flew out of sight to the westward. At 10:20 A.M. a swishing sound above us caused us to look up as a Condor circled 60 or 70 feet above us. We moved quickly flashing our binoculars and cameras and talking. This did not alarm the Condor as it returned and

Condor -

Paul & Jim
Singer

Condor project.

23 May 196

Circled us at least three more times at very close range, at one time being less than 25 feet from us, overhead. The Condor had a complete dark head covered with dark down. Much dirty white under the wings with no definite line between the dark and white. The white on top of the wings was very evident, as this bird circled below our level. And a mottled white pattern was evident as a spot, on top of the wings towards the outer part about where the center primaries would fasten to the wing. All feathers were in perfect condition, and were dark brown above and on the blackish side below. My identification of this bird would be that it was a young of last year.

As this Condor circled us Ian called out, "What is it fellows". Jack Gains responded, "It's an adult Condor, probably several years past the juvenile stage - probably 7-8 or 9 years old". This Condor flew away to the southwest about 200 yards and was there attacked by a Raven that dove and pursued it closely driving it back to the Northeast at a fast rate not far above the top of the brush - we saw this bird ~~the~~ no more. We all three agreed that on the nearest circle above us - this Condor was less than 25 feet above us. I took several 35mm snaps of this young Condor as it circled us. I used a 500 ft. and 63mm lens - shooting up into a bright cloudy sky. Also took several shots of Jack Gains as well as he and Ian talking together.

23 May/1963

Condor

after talking for ten minutes, at 10:40 A.M.

We saw another Condor circling high above the North side of ~~Agua Blanca~~ ^{agua Blanca} Canyon at a distance of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from where we stood. We watched this bird circle for a few minutes and then slant off to the Northwest, following the North slope of the Agua Blanca drainage, until it became difficult to follow against the dark brush in the background.

We then returned to the pickups where Gan and I ate our lunches and Jack Gains drove off in his pickup to look after some road grading that was going on in the Cow Springs area.

After lunch Gan and I drove to the Bucksnort Camp, leaving our pickup there we proceeded on foot up the Canyon behind the Camp Cabin of Mr. Harter and out to the southeast on the ridge between the Sespe drainage and the Agua Blanca, following the trail left by the bulldozer that worked out a deep road up this ridge so that ~~the~~ road killed deer could be hauled up on the ridgetop, to attract Condor, so that members of the Cooper Ornithological Society annual meeting members ¹⁹⁶⁰ could see the birds. We followed this trail a short distance when we looked back to see

- food -

Condor

Two Condor sailing ~~and~~ up from the south and circling above the knoll where we had been in the morning. Both these Condor were adults - one showing several missing wing feathers while the other bird had a near perfect plumage. After circling to the Northwest of us for about 5 minutes these Two Condor flew to the south down the Canyon and were soon out of sight in the hazy fog. Going on up the trail we passed the opening where the deer carcasses had been dumped,

condor

23 May 1963

in 1960, intending to continue on this trail to the end of navigation, but heavy damp fog soon obliterated everything. We returned to the pickup truck, picking out a spot where we would brush out a spot to watch for nesting activities on the rock ledge leading down northward from Whitacre to the descent. We met Jack Gains on the road near Squaw flat, where he was engaged overseeing road grading operations. We agreed with him that the three of us would pack into the Hole-in-the-wall on June 5-6 and 7. We also agreed to meet Jack at his home, the next morning, and providing he had time, he would take us into the Cold Water Canyon of the Sespe where condors are supposed to nest. Back at our camp Alan and I discussed the happenings of the day and retired at dusk as a poor-will called from the brush covered hills to our eastward. The fog prevailed until dark.

ben Mcmillan

California Condor Project

24 May-1963

3329

we were at Jack Gains home at 8:00 A.M. but he was in Ojai, so his wife told us. Sam called Fred Eissler, in Santa Barbara, and finding he would be home we drove there and discussed what knowledge he had of Condor and their whereabouts. From there we went to the home of Dr. Mary Erickson, in Santa Barbara, and gleaned what information we could from her as well as alerting her to our need of any unusual Condor observations she might have or would be having.

food Dr. Erickson told us of having gone to the Sespe Corridor with some of her students to observe Condors some time last Spring, 1962. Two of these students were in the process of packing some lion meat up on the ridge, to the East of Squaw flat, in order to entice Condor in when they were accosted by Jack Gains and processed with a warrant for breaking the law in leaving the Corridor area, or posted area. Dr. Erickson said nothing had been heard of this further and she felt ~~that~~ the charges had been dropped. Jack Gains had related this incident to us formally and said Dr. Erickson along with the two students in question, and two ~~foreigners~~ ^{foreigners} from Germany, were with her. Gains told us of serving the warrant on the two students violators, and that those warrants were still sitting on the desk of a Federal Court, either in Santa Barbara, or Los Angeles and had never been processed to date. Jack Gains said "we", are trying to arrange to have these wildlife area violations processed through the local courts, as are the fire closure violations, where prompt and punitive action is taken.

Home at 6:00 P.M. via San Luis Obispo + Paso Robles.

~~30 May 196~~

California Condor

Eben McMillan

30 May-1963

329

at Memorial Day Barbecue in the Shandon Park today I talked with Billie Marteniz who was born in the Avenales area south of MaChesna Mountain about 15 miles Southeast of Pozo, San Luis Obispo County, Calif. in about 1905 or 1906, ^{who said} ~~that~~ that his first memory of ~~a~~ condors was when he was working for Walter Dunning on the La Panza Ranch, on the San Juan River, when he was a young fellow. He remembers seeing 13 or 14 Condor at a time on this Ranch.

also talked to Paul Freeborn, who lives at old Shumler home of Johnking, and works as maintenance foreman for the California Division of Highways and spends most of his working time driving the highway between the Cammatta Canyon on the west and the top of the Tumbler Mountain, on the east. He said that about three weeks ago he and his helper were eating lunch on top of Red Hill south of Cammatta Ranch House when his son John Freeborn came along, from the east, and stopped to ask if he, (Paul Freeborn) had seen the two Condor that were feeding on a dead calf close by the highway, just across highway from La Panza Ranch at the forks of the Santa Margarita and Paso Robles Highways. Paul told his boy they had not seen the two Condors when they drove by but that they were returning that way soon and would look for them as they drove by, ~~when~~ as soon as his son had left Paul and his helper drove to the La Panza Crossing and there saw several

Turkey Vultures and one Condor feeding on the calf carcass and one Condor circling in the air above. The one Condor that was still at the carcass continued to feed as Paul & helper drove up in state truck and stopped, but as they got out of the truck and walked across the road to get a closer look ~~it~~

Continued - Condor -

30 May - 1966

the Condor walked away from the carcass and up a small hillside and there ran a few steps, flapped its wings and flew and jumped up on top of a fencepost was on top of this small hillside and perhaps 100 Yards from where the two men were standing, leaning on the wire on north side of highway. A car came by, on the highway, two men inside - Paul Freeborn stopped this car and asked the two occupants had they ever seen a California Condor. They said no, but that they had heard of them before. These two men joined Paul and his helper looking at this Condor on a post and Mr. Freeborn told the two strangers they were seeing a rare sight as this was one of the remaining sixty of these birds left in the world. Paul Freeborn then told his helper to cross through the fence and see how close he could approach the Condor before it would fly. This the ~~helper~~ helper did and Mr. Freeborn showed me a compass distance from where we stood that this Condor let the helper approach where it sat on the post before it flew ~~it~~^I would judge the distance to be about 40 Yards 120 feet. Mr. Freeborn said the Condor in leaving the post dipped near the ground and flapped its wings vigorously before it got into the air and height. Paul the Red head was very evident and the white under wings very plain - a do not doubt it but that the two birds were Condor as Paul thought it was young bird due to its tameness but once a told him that the red head meant it had to be an adult, he admitted this to be probable for he said the head was very distinct.

Shot Condor

Mrs. Freeborn, who was born on the Carrissa Plains about 60 years ago, joined us in discussing Condor and said she remembers, as a young girl on the Carrissa Plains, ~~near~~^{near} Simmler,

Continued - Condor -

30 May - 1963

329

Shot Condor

~~She~~ Someone had shot a Condor and hung it on a fence that was about 100 feet from the roadway and that she remembers a road being made by continued tracks of automobiles that in passing this place would leave the main road to drive over and look at the dead Condor. She also remembered seeing Condor as a young girl, and then many years passed, until she saw Condor again.

One young, well developed Golden Eagle was on the Old nest in Brown Canyon on the Iker Hansen Property four miles to the south of Shandon, S.L.C. County, California. This young bird was observed at 9:30 A.M. no old birds were seen about the nest site.

a cool damp fog filled the Salinas Valley basin until 10:30 A.M. and lapped over into the San Joaquin and Carrisa plains areas. It burned off by 11:00 A.M. and made for a fine afternoon.



California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

31 May-1963

1329

It was cloudy bright as I drove to the Navajo, via San Juan and French Camp. I stopped at Camp Tender for Rudnick Sheep interests as I entered the Navajo Creek field, who told me that coyotes had killed three or four lambs on the San Juan River, below the La Panza Bridge, but that he had seen no Pájaro Grande (Condor) of late. I then drove up Navajo Creek to camp of herder, Ignacio, who told me he had seen four Condor last Thursday, close by the Pump and Tank that are located by the highway two miles Northwest of La Panza Ranch house. He also told me no coyotes had bothered his herd of ewes that are grazing on the range.

I then drove down highway towards La Panza Ranch, noticing the complete job of overgrazing that is being done on the Navajo Range. Stopping to open the gate into the River field north of the highway, to the west of the La Panza Bridge, I saw a condor circling high above and to the North. This condor drifted northward as it circled. I drove down river one mile to where a flock of about 300 ewes and their newborn lambs remain without a herder. 30 Turkey Buzzards were scattered about this area, some feeding on dead ewes and lambs, and many circling in the air. The Condor, I had seen at the gate, still circled above this area, but never came very low. I first saw this condor at 10:45 A.M. and at 11:00 A.M. it flew away to the west, remaining high. A brisk north wind was blowing and the sky was still overcast with high clouds.

Seeing several spots where the Turkey Buzzards were feeding in groups, I left the pickup on

California condor

Eben McMillan

31 May 1966

South side of River and hiked across it. Four Carcasses of young lambs were found, in the grass, on which the Buzzards had been feeding, as well as two rather old Carcasses of Ewes that were full of maggots, but on which several Buzzards had ~~also~~ also been feeding. I could see no actual ~~the~~ signs of any of these animals having been killed by Coyotes. One Ewe was lying down on her side and only got up as I moved close to her to get a photograph. As I was working for a snapshot, this Ewe got to its feet after some struggling and stood holding its left hind leg that had broken and was useless. After photographing this Ewe I walked on to where several Buzzards were standing on a bank of the creek. Here I found a Ewe lying in the grass unable to get up although it struggled briefly to do so as I walked up. I also photographed this Ewe and the well eaten Carcass of a small lamb that lay about twenty feet away.

As I was walking from the car, down the river, another Condor moved slowly into the Northwind flying high, following the E side of San Juan River - This Condor continued onward and passed from sight to the Northward, down river, at 11:00. Most of the Turkey Buzzards left the San Juan River at 11:30 A.M. only the Odd Buzzard would return to feed on the sheep Carcasses.

I left this area at 2:30 P.M. no more Condor came. The sky lightened somewhat but high clouds remained. I visited the shepherd, Pedro, who is camped on river below Cedar Spring. He herds 2000 Ewes. No Coyotes bothering his sheep - no Condor seen by him; and he wonders how his sheep will be able to continue to live for the two weeks before they are moved to the Baker area, as no more grass remains for them on the Navajo

ifornia Condor.

Eben McMillan

1 June-1963

1329

Foggy this morning, but by 8:30 A.M. it had burned off and a nice clear day was in prospect. I left the house at 8:30 A.M. and drove to the San Juan river, below La Panza bridge by 9:30 A.M. via Shell Creek, Cammatta Ranch and Navajo. Upon arriving on the flat, on San Juan river, where the herdless flock of Ewe's, and lambs, ranges, I noticed few Turkey Buzzards in the air but saw more than 14 of these birds sitting on the ground in the short ^{CANYON} ~~canyons~~ that come down to the river to the ~~the~~ north of 16 Spring, on Oil Seep Spring, that is on the west side of San Juan river about two miles north of La Panza Bridge. These Buzzards were sitting on the south facing slopes of these small canyons and some had their wings outstretched sunning them before flight. I left the pickup at the crossing and taking Telephoto Camera and binoculars walked down the river to the spot where the Ewe lay paralyzed near the carcass of the small lamb. This Ewe had turned around, on the ground, but was still lying in the same spot breathing very fast and struggling a bit as I approached. I took a rock and killed this Ewe and with my knife, opened its ^{STOMACH} ~~stomach~~ cavity. The rear of its left ham had been opened and blood was clotted about the wound. ^{It} ~~It~~ looked like some mammal had torn the skin and eaten some from this ham as the animal lay there alive.

I then walked up the river towards the car finding the well cleaned remains of a lamb's carcass lying in the sand in the river bed. No water was on the surface here but the sand was damp and soft. Near the lamb's carcass I found tracks of a condor in the soft, damp, sand. These tracks although more than one day old were still legible, as were the tracks of several Turkey Buzzards that had walked here also.

I noticed dog tracks crossing the river bed at two different locations with no corresponding man tracks accompanying them. Returning to the car, or pickup, I ate my lunch and was

Food

Food

Condor Tracks

Continued - Condor

Eben Mcmillan

1 June-1963

Food -
Condor -

watching some Turkey Buzzards that were circling above two sheep carcasses, to the Northeast, when I saw a juvenile Condor flying past, above me, with set wings as though it were diving. It ~~did not~~ joined the Buzzards and circled above the two sheep carcasses for a few minutes. This young condor had come in from the south and the weather mild - the wind gentle from the north. After circling, it then drifted over the pickup where I took several telephoto shots before it drifted eastward and disappeared behind the lower cliffs that front the east side of the San Juan River here. About two minutes later this same bird returned into view, up one of the canyons, and circled a few times then drifted westward until above the river where it let down quickly and alighted in the creek-bed behind a tree from me, so that the actual landing was hidden to my view. Taking my telephoto camera and binoculars I walked to the tree that hid the condor from my view, that was about 20 yards from ~~the~~ the pickup and another 200 yards from the place in the river where the condor was. As I emerged through this to two Turkey Buzzards flew low over the tree causing me to look up to identify them. When I looked at the river again the young condor was already fifty feet into the air and circled after gaining about 150 ft. in altitude it sailed towards me but veered off as it got within 100 yards and drifted eastward, circling, but only after I had taken several telephoto shots of it. As this condor drifted to the east across the river, and against the steep ^{points} ~~points~~ along the east side of the river it was joined by 8 or 10 Buzzards and two Ravens. One of these Ravens took after the young condor, ^{squawking} ~~squawking~~ as it pursued the bird - and drove it into a box canyon that went up steeply from the valley edge, and from which I doubted the condor could make it out on top due to the steep sides and quick ascent. The condor and the raven passed from

Condor - Condor

Eben Mcmillan

1 June - 1963

1329

my view as they rounded a point in this canyon. Soon the Raven returned, but no Condor - I then walked across the river and entered a steep sided gully that led up into the canyon where the Condor had passed from view. After passing up this gully some distance and after a lapsed time ~~time~~ of about 5 minutes since I had last seen it - the young Condor came flapping down the canyon and circled several times at the mouth, above me, giving opportunity for me to take several Telephoto shots of it as it flew above me. At times, as its gyrations would bring it ~~near~~ near the steep sides of the canyon mouth it would come so close to the ground that I thought it lightning, but it would skim past ~~the~~ among the atriplex bushes, and Juniper trees, and always manage to keep airborne -

When this young Condor first came down the river it was 11:45 a.m.. The bird had a black head - very brownish feathers, especially on the back - the feet were very light and easily seen, and no white line could be noticed on ventral portion of wing. The under sides of the wings were mottled with a dirty white and ~~the~~ no light spot could be seen at outer part of wing either ventrally or underside. I felt it had to be a last years young Condor.

At 12:20 p.m. this young Condor, after circling several minutes about the mouth of the steep canyon into which a Raven had driven it, drifted out above the center of the river valley, circled here gaining elevation quickly and soon sailed out to the eastward about a mile where it circled again briefly then commenced to drift to the northwest slowly and worked its way back to the river area from where it took a straight line to the

Hawke

Continued - Condor

Eben McMillan

1 June - 1966

Northward. As this Condor sailed Northward, a Red Tailed Hawk came from high above and dove on it. Even though the Hawk kept a respectful distance nevertheless the young Condor gave a defensive dive for about 100 ft. and turned its course Westward sailed across the river valley until it came close to the ground, above a brush covered knoll ~~at~~ about one and one half mile North, and West, of where I now stood near the pickup truck. As this Condor circled, even at that distance, I could make out the brown color on the back of the wings quite well. Very little glint was seen on the back of this bird as is the case with old birds.

This Condor circled above this brush covered knoll for about 5 minutes before it reached a good elevation and sailed Northeastward across the river valley. After getting above the center of the valley, the young Condor circled here. It was here that I tried to change from binoculars to a spotting scope to better follow the bird, when I lost sight of it and could not pick it up again.

It was 12:50 P.m. when this young Condor was last seen.

I hiked to the spot in the river where the young Condor had landed and there found and photographed its tracks in the soft sand as well as the deep tracks where it looked to me where it landed. I also walked down the river and photographed the Condor tracks I saw there this morning. Nothing had come to feed on the sheep carcass I had cut open when I left the area at 3:45. p.m. -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 June - 1963

329

food —

The sun came up clear and warm - after picking up some plaster of Paris at Highway Drug in Paso Robles & drove to San Juan Creek, below La Ponza Bridge, on highway 178 - and checked the sheep carcass above Swallow Rock that I had killed with a rock and opened its stomach cavity yesterday. 14 Turkey Buzzards were feeding on this carcass when I drove up at 1:30 pm. The carcass was already well cleaned and it could be that condor had been ~~here~~ ^{here} earlier in the day - I then drove to creek bed of San Juan River where the young condor had lit yesterday, near noon, and there took plaster of Paris casts of three different condor tracks.

The temperature on the San Juan River was on the warm side and the ewes and lambs were seeking the shade of the cottonwood trees. I think, from the looks of things, that the camp-tender and another shepherd are now corralling ~~corralling~~ the ewes and lambs at night, for I saw signs in the wire ~~corralling~~ ^{corralling} that looked like sheep had been penned there at night - This may explain why the coyotes have killed no more lambs.

Jack Gains phoned collect from Fillmore stating that he would not be able to accompany us into The Hole in the Wall this week as he couldn't get his days off changed and also a school graduation of a relative would conflict. He said that the Audubon staff had been with him, on Memorial day, on the road that goes along the top of Hopper Mountain. It was a cold & foggy day and no condor were seen - The day after Memorial day - May 31, a group from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, who had

Condor —

camped in the Squaw flat area, saw 15 condor on that day - Jack Gains also said he was lining up some help for us in the Greenhorn mountain area east of Bakersfield.

Jack seems to feel he's a part of this research team -



Tillmore

California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 June 1963

1329

Jan came to my house at 5:20 A.M. and after loading our gear into my pickup we left at 5:30 A.M. for Tillmore, via Blackwells corner - Tost - Cuyama and Ojai. The morning was clear and cool - We stopped for coffee at the ^{Pine Mountain} ~~White Rocks~~ Cafe in the Sespe river drainage just as one ~~top~~ ^{tops} the Coast Range and commences to descend the Sespe, from Cuyama way. The proprietors of this ^{Pine Mountain} ~~White Rocks~~ Cafe, a Mr. and Mrs. Bearrison Told us of the great concentration of Deer Hunters that come into that area during the first week of Deer season that usually commences in the early part of August each year - ^{Behrison} ~~The Bearrison's~~ Cafe is a modest little building of two rooms and a small kitchen that is, in no respect, modern in any sense of the word. The night before the deer season commences, hunters from all over southern California flock into their place of business and continue to keep ~~them~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} extra helpers they hire during this first week of the deer season, busy 24 hours a day until this hunting crowd subsides at the end of the second weekend of the deer season. Mrs. ^{Behrison} ~~Bearrison~~ stated that among this crowd of 5000 plus hunters who come into this upper sespe area to hunt during the first of the ~~deer~~ ^{deer} season, there are a few good hunters who get their deer the first weekend and return to their homes, but that the great majority of these hunters are only out here to get away from their families, and get drunk, and generally have a wild time during their 7-8 or 9 days stay in the camps throughout the sespe and Pine Mountain area. Mr. ^{Behrison} ~~Bearrison~~ stated he knew of efforts to have the Forest Service develop homesites for sale in the upper sespe drainage. He, ^{Behrison} ~~Bearrison~~ stated he would be against a development such as this even though it would bring him considerable more business. The ^{Behrison's} ~~Bearrison's~~ spoke of the mass of hunters shooting at everything that moves and lots that doesn't move.

We drove on to Ojai where we stopped at the District

SPONSIBLE

4 June 1963

Continued

Office of the U.S. Forest Service and chatted with Ranger Jack Parkinson at 8:45 A.M. Mr. Parkinson is just now recovering from a recent operation and still appears to be under Par. Ranger Parkinson told us that Jack Gains had a map of all known nest sites and locations of Condor in refuge as well as those known outside the Condor Refuge. He said that no copy of this map is allowed in the care of anyone but Jack Gains with the exception of the original map that is kept in the Santa Barbara Office of the U.S. Forest Service and that both the map in Santa Barbara and at the home of Mr. J. Gains were kept under lock and key at all times and were not shown to anyone except under certain conditions. Mr. Parkinson made no mention of our having access to the use of these maps, nor did we ask for the privilege. But we did make a point of inquiring about this map several times to allow for ample opportunity for Mr. Parkinson to suggest that we see, or obtain, this map in order that we better understand the locations of the nests. Mr. Parkinson also elaborated on the important issue at hand concerning the new developments on the proposed Dam site on the Sespe River. The access Road to this Dam presents the problem. He pointed out to us that there are three different routes under advisement. Two of which would come in from the west and not enter the Condor Refuge - the other would enter and proceed through the Condor Refuge by way of the Sespe Corridor, Squaw Flats - Cow Springs and thence onto the Dam site. Ranger Parkinson gave every indication that he personally would oppose the Sespe Corridor route and he stated that the Forest Service would not favor any particular route just because it was cheaper to construct, or easier to build, and that he thought that before a route could be planned through

Continued — Condor —

4. June - 1963

1329

the Condor Refuge, ~~that~~ the Three members of the advisory group — U.S. Forest Service — University of California and The National Audubon Society would have to pass on the feasibility of this route, as it would pertain to Condor disturbance, and welfare. Parkinson also thought the findings of our present study would have important bearing on the construction of any road through the Condor Refuge.

Ranger Parkinson voiced his complete confidence in Jack Gains and said that Mr. Gains is called upon to investigate any problems relative to the ~~welfare~~ ^{welfare} of ~~the~~ Condor and that Gains is even sent to areas out of his district, such as Frazier Mountain, when anything comes up that calls for research or ~~decisions~~ ^{analysis} about the Condors, or recommendations regarding their care, or protection. Ranger Parkinson stated that Jack Gains gets on well with everyone ~~involved~~ ^{involved}, especially the people who have cattle leases on the Forest in Mr. Gains district. He said that Gains often helps Mr. Harter, a cattle leasor in the Squaw Flat, and Bucksnort, areas, gather his cattle and knows Mr. Harter better than he ^(Parkinson) does, as he, Gains, probably sees Mr. Harter once a week. Where he, Mr. Parkinson, only sees these stockmen on the odd ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions}. Mr. Parkinson gave no indication that Mr. Gains works, on his day's off from Forest Service Employment, for this Mr. Harter, and that Mr. Gains is a strong proponent for building the access Road to the New Dam site by way of the Condor Corridor, Sespe, and Squaw Flat; and that he, Gains, has stated to Gann and I that when this road is constructed, the Forest Service will build ~~him~~ ^{him} a new ~~Ranger~~ ^{Guard} Station in the Squaw Flat area of which he, Gains, will be in complete charge. Parkinson also did not indicate any knowledge of Mr. Gains being

- Continued - California Condor

4 June-1963

implicated in promoting the use of Trail Bikes by the U.S. Forest Service, as well as favoring their use on the public lands, by the public, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~being~~ being a salesman for the Mr. Parkinson stated, to Gan and I, that he had asked and been given, 1400 dollars to repair that portion of Pole Canyon Road that continues up on top of Hopper where it goes through the thick brush patch just before the Gate that is located in this brush patch and the last gate before entering the Condor Refuge, on this Pole Canyon Road, as well as to construct a flat place where cars proceeding up this road can turn around and return without entering or proceeding past the spot where the Pole Canyon and Percy Jeep road converge. at this point a berm would be thrown up that would prevent further vehicular traffic along the present Hopper Rim Road past this spot. The Hopper Rim Road would then be "put to sleep" as Ranger Parkinson put it, meaning that it would be drained to prevent further erosion and that no further use of this road would be permitted to automobile traffic, except in case of a fire.

Ian and I then drove to Fillmore and stopped at the home of Jack Gains, whose wife told us he would not be back until 5:00 p.m., it being his day off. We then ~~drove~~ ^{drove} up Hopper Canyon to the Percy Ranch - Mr. Percy was just recovering from "The Flu", and ~~was~~ ^{still} coughed considerably. We ate lunch with him under the trees in his front yard discussing weather - agricultural and Condor topics. Mr. Percy told us that it had been either foggy or cloudy for the last two months and that he had only been able to see the sun on odd ^{occasions} ~~occasions~~; and that he had only seen odd Condor Pass by his ranch area - Percy also stated he had lost nearly 8 or 10 if any cattle this spring. Finishing our lunch.

W. J. P. M.

1329

Continued - California Condor

4 June 1963

9 am and a drove to ridge below summit of Hopper Mt. where we left the pickups and commenced the hike into Hole-in-the-wall. ~~The~~ Transformation of Mr. Percy's range, from when a had last seen it, was most ~~spectacular~~ spectacular. Grasses were now in abundance and wild oats covered the slopes to a ~~height~~ ^{height} of two feet.

We passed along the southeast face of Hopper Mt. Sky hazy, but clear, with some clouds to the north. It was warm, but not hot - a light north wind was blowing. As we reached the point where Percy's Teep road and Pole Canyon road converge, the time being 1:30 P.M.,

here

Condor - adult

→ We saw an adult condor raising up from the west slope of the Hopper Rim about one-quarter mile ahead of us and sailed northward. Proceeding onward, at 2:13 P.M., about one-half mile, we saw another adult

Condor - ad -

→ Condor as it passed overhead flying in the direction of northeast. This condor had a feather missing from its left ~~hand~~ ^{wing} about $\frac{2}{5}$ th of the way out from the body. It passed on without stopping to circle or observe us.

We located the spot on Hopper Rim where Spring Canyon Trail reaches the top of Hopper Rim. We also searched for water in the openings to the east of this spot but found none. Bear tracks were about on the trails. Before reaching the ~~Whiteacre~~ ^{Whiteacre} Peak

Condor -

→ We saw two condors, adults, rise from behind the cliffs facing the Squaw Flats area and after gaining moderate elevation flew on to the northward. These two condors were adults and displayed a bit as they were circling, one would dive close to the other, this on two or three different ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions}. As we passed around the northeast end of the Hole-in-the-wall trail, an adult

- Continued - California Condor -

4-June-1966

Condor

Condor was observed perched on the dead limb of a moderately sized Big Cone Spruce Tree that grew to the left of the trail about 150 yards in front of us. This Condor spread its wings as we watched it. We could see the red streak where its full crop was exposing the skin of its body. Ducking back in the brush a helper Ian got his camera from his pack on his back. ~~And~~ Ready with the camera we stepped back into the trail but the Condor had flown. Incident took place at about 5:00 AM. ~~Ten~~ ^{Ten} minutes

Condor

Later we saw an adult Condor ~~at~~ circling one-half to our Northeast. This Condor approached us, flew past to the northward and moved away to the Northwest. This was probably the same Condor that we saw sitting in the tree ~~previously~~ previously, but not the one with the feather missing from the wing that we saw on the trail earlier in the afternoon. We reached the hole-in-the-wall at sunset after several Turkey vultures perched in dead snag on a point that was in the Pima river drainage. No Condor were roosting in Hole-in-the-wall. Three Ravens called ~~noisily~~ ^{NOISILY} as we looked over the canyon when called from nearby rocks by White-throated Swift and Violet Green Swallows from above Hole-in-the-wall. At dusk a poor-will came from the hillsides nearby. The sun set clear. The evening was warm.

We found scattered holes of water in the creek above hole-in-the-wall but they will not remain long as we ~~can~~ ^{could} see it is drying up fast.

Hole-in-the-Wall

California Condor

Eben McMillan

5 June 1963

1329

The sun came up clear, warm and bright - we were located on a lookout point to the south of Hole-in-the-wall by 7:30 A.M. Fog commenced to fill in the Hopper Canyon drainage - No Condor were seen - The fog would thin out from time to time allowing short intervals of time when we could locate the nest sites in the area from the photographs Keoford had mailed us. Ravens were about the cliffs and swallows and white-throated swifts flew by us during our stay on this lookout. At 10:30. we left the Hole-in-the-wall area as fog thickened preventing further observation. We took a short-cut going back - spent some time running out, what we think is the old trail that the Forest Service used, in times past to get into the Canyon below The Hole-in-the-wall, and arrived at the pickup at 5:10 P.M. from where we drove to Percy Ranch, built an outdoor fire and dried out our pants that had become soaked from walking through the fog-dampened grass,

here



1400
1711
1712

California Condor

Eben McMillan

8-June-1963

2329

It was still damp and cloudy when we arose at 6:15 A.M.. Fog had lifted and it looked like rain. Left Percy ranch at 7:45 A.M. and were at mouth of Hopper canyon by 8:30 A.M.. Chatted with Eugene Percy, at whose overnight cabin we stopped to leave the key to his Mountain Ranch Gate. Mr. Percy told us that in the years when Kuford was working in the Hopper mountain area that the brush was not near as thick as it is now and that in those days ~~one~~^{one} could walk his way about through it in most places. He also told us that the trail we had checked out was the old Forest Service trail that went into the creek about 200 yards below the Hole-in-the-wall. He, Percy, had packed fish into that creek in years past.

hole

1946

Fire in Hopper Canyon

Mr. Percy also told us that a small fire had burned ~~the~~^{an} area of about 70 or 80 acres in 1946, in the Condor Refuge at a point to the east of where the Spring Canyon trail hits the top of Hopper rim - Otherwise no fire had burned in the refuge since 1927. In that year the whole area of the Hopper Canyon drainage burned.

We went to the home of Jack Gains at 9:30 A.M. Mr. Gains was at home. We talked with him about the new dam on the Sespe. He told us that Politics was holding up final approval of plans for the Dam and he seemed to be very much in favor of seeing it completed in the utmost haste. We asked Mr. Gains if he had a map in his care that showed actual locations of all Condor nests that have been located within the Condor Refuge area. He said that he had such a map in his possession. Mr. Gains did not offer to show us this map, nor did he mention how we should

California Condor

5-June 1963

go about getting to see it, or if he had been told not to show this map to us, or if he had the authority to do so without order from the Santa Barbara office. I am specifically asked Mr. Gains if he had shown us the locations of all the ^{whiteacre} nest sites he knew in the Hopper Canyon and ~~whiteacre~~ areas as well as any others that we had passed by when we were with Mr. Gains on 22 and 23 May-1963. Mr. Gains said yes, that he had shown us all the locations he knew of in these areas... If this is so then Jack does not know where the upper Whitacre Peak nest is the nest site that is to the east and in sight of Squaw Flat, nor the location of any of Koford's nests in the Hopper Canyon area. For the nest sites we have located from Koford's photographs were not pointed out to us by Jack Gains - Either Gains was lying to us, or else he does not know the location of these nest sites.

Jack Gains told us that 500 dollars had been allocated for widening the road that goes along Hopper Canyon from the point where the Percy Jeep Road and the Pole Canyon Road converge, out to the place where we had turned his Forest Service pickup around on 22 May. It is about 100 feet southwest of the rocks at the roadside on the west side of Koford's Lookout point. Mr. Gains told us he had personally made the estimate of construction costs of this project and that he would personally supervise its construction and that he, Mr. Gains, had gotten the bids for this construction project. This job would include widening out the present Hopper Rim road and bulldozing out a wide area where automotive vehicles could turn around - the closing off further access to the Hopper Rim road from Koford's Lookout Point on north.

The Condor

California Condor -

5 June 1963

2329

At this meeting in his home Jack Gains also re-stated what he told me over the telephone last week that he had been on Hopper Rim Road with the Audubon Staff and their families on Memorial Day and although they had remained throughout the day in the general area of Kofords Lookout Point they had seen no Condor due to the fog that persisted while they were there. Mr. Gains mentioned that his wife had been sunburned on her shoulders on Hopper rim that day - even though it ~~was~~ was foggy and cool. Jan and I saw the signs of where this group had spent Memorial day on Hopper rim in the area of Kofords Lookout Point. ~~on Memorial day~~, as we passed that way on foot Yesterday, and the day before Yesterday.

here

Jack Gains also stated to us, in our meeting today, that a group from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, who had camped at Cow Spring Campground in the Corridor through the Condor Refuge, over the Memorial day weekend, had told him, when he went to Cow Springs Campground on ~~Friday~~ ^{Saturday June 1st}, that they had observed 15 Condor circle over that area.

15 Condor

Condor
seen before

Jan and I drove to ~~Sequoia~~ ^{Castaic Jct.} where we went to the dead-pit of the Newhall Land and Cattle Company's Feed Lot and saw 10 plus Turkey Buzzards feeding and perched on the ground about the pit where dead cattle from the Feed Lot are dumped - we looked for signs of Condor, but found none.

food -

We drove north to ~~the~~ Lebec - Lunched, gassed + to pickup, then drove west to Chuchupate Ranger ~~Station~~ ^{Station} of the U.S. Forest Service where we met and talked with Ranger Jack Williams who told us of seeing two Condor circle and disappear ~~into~~ into a rocky mountainside that is -

Condor

5- June 1963
 7:30 p.m.
 1004

California Condor

5-June 1963

Condor

to the north of Sycamore Creek and west of the Mutah Flat area on Sespe River. Ranger Williams also told us of records left by a Mr. Vaughn, who had been fire lookout at Thorn Point for several years, and which stated that several ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions} Mr. Vaughn had observed Condor to a rough rock area near the Thorn Point Lookout Station after sunset and leaving this area before sunrise the morning. He, Mr. Vaughn thought Condor were nesting the Lookout station.

Shooting

Ranger Williams said he thought the average deer Hunter who came into his area would shoot at anything that moved. mentioned that great numbers of hunters come into his district during the first week of Deer Season. He also appeared to disfavor the use of Trail-bikes in the National Forest and saw where these vehicles could do no good when used by the Forest Service personnel. Ranger Williams stated that Jack Gains was the only Forest Service employee that had a trail-bike in the Los Padres National Forest, as far as he knew, and that the one Jack Gains used was his own personal property. Ranger Williams seemed concerned for the welfare of the Condor population.

We drove to Cuyama Valley station of U.S. Forest Service but found Ranger Morse absent.

Went to home of Jack Selby, in Cuyama. He was not home. LaMar Johnson's wife informed us that he was working cattle.

History

Drove through Elkhorn Plains - crossed Calissa plains and talked with Alexandro Galanani, who runs sheep near Soda Lake. He said Condor used to come to dead up on his place, in the summer months, 20 years ago, but that he has not seen any for many years.

Home at 7:30 p.m.

Left the house at 10:30 A.M. It was warm and the sky was clear but for a few high cirrus clouds - arriving at Navajo sheep camp at 11:10 A.M. I found the shepherds spraying the sheep for ~~lice~~ lice. They said no sheep had died lately - They also said that one bunch of the sheep on Navajo would be moved to Bakersfield this week -

I drove to San Juan River area where Ewes and lambs are running, arriving there at 11:40 A.M.

Several Turkey Buzzards were feeding on a dead Ewe that had died beneath an Oak tree on

the hillside 100 yards to the south of the 16 Spring Flat is located on west side of San Juan river about 1 1/2 miles north of La Panza bridge on highway 178 - These

Buzzards flew as I drove out in sight of them and they circled upward above the area. At 11:50 A.M. Two adult Condor flew in from the south and circled the area for some time. When first seen they were about 500 feet up and sailing slowly - they circled the area at this same elevation for about 5 minutes allowing me to see that one of them was in perfect plumage and the other very ragged looking with several small gaps in the wings and the Right wing had only two fully developed Primaries - the others on this wing being about 1/2 to 3/4 developed, but not enough to give the Palm effect to the outer tip of this wing. These birds flew, or sailed to the west until out of sight behind the Navajo ridge - then returned and circled north of me for some minutes before sailing

food

condor

Navajo

California Condor

9 June, 1966

Northwestward until going out of sight behind the Navajo ridge again, and from there, after reappearing again, gaining much altitude and going straight down the San Juan River Valley, Northward, until lost from sight at 1:18 P.M..

I waited for something to return to this sheep camp until 3:30 P.M.. Nothing came so drove home by Waynesville, Carissa plains and Pinole Spring where I stopped and checked in with a newly arrived shepherd that is camped with his flock 1/2 mile north of Pinole Spring on Carissa plains - Bitterwater Valley Road. These sheep belong to Jose Esparian and Jake Martins and will be in the area all summer. Esparian told me that although he has had sheep on La Panza Ranch and the Pinole Ranch for six summers he has never seen Condor, or at least seen them know what they were. ^{Esparian} ~~Esparian~~ told me he also has a band of sheep on the La Panza Ranch three miles southwest of Carissa plains store. He informed me that he would instruct his herder to be on the lookout for Condor and to make note of any they might see and give me this information when I come again.

Jose Esparian

John T. ...
Esparian

Guns.

I noticed that Two Guns were standing in the rear of the horse-trailer that the Shepherd lives in -

Home and wrote up notes in evening.

To L.A. Audubon
center

food

Ian arrived here at 7:00 A.M. We loaded up my pickup and left for L.A. via Blackwells Corner and Taft. Between Maricopa and Gorman we were in rain squalls some quite heavy at times. Smog and clouds in Los Angeles basin, but no rain - we stopped at the dead pit of Newhall Land and Cattle Company at Saugus Junction, at 9:30 A.M. 20 plus Turkey vultures were about the dead pit area - several on the bank and some in the pit where two new cattle bodies had been dumped since we were here last week. No sign of Condor feeding here. We watched this pit area until 10:00 A.M. and seeing no Condor we then drove to the El Monte Audubon Center ^{where} we arrived at 12:07 P.M. and there met Paul ^{Howard} ~~Howard~~ the director who took us to lunch. The purpose of our visit to Audubon Center was to talk with Mr. Howard and see if he had noticed any weakness on the part of the Condor Preservation Program in the Fillmore area as well as any thoughts he might have relative to the values accruing from this Program in the Refuge area. Mr. Howard was happy to know we were getting on well with all the Forest Personnel and with Jack Gains in particular. Mr. Howard stated that no sooner had he returned from the Conference in Asilomar, than he had immediately contacted Mr. Gains ^{and} Mr. Parkinson and had learned from Mr. Gains that Mr. Hansen, Supervisor of Los Padres National Forest, had issued orders to all concerned that nothing was to be done towards the Condor Study until further orders from him had been received. Mr. Howard also said that Jack Gains had told him he, Mr. Gains that is, knew that Mr. Hansen had never received the letter from Mr. Buckheisters office advising him, Mr. Hansen, of the commencing of the Condor survey and who was to do the research in the field.

Mr. Howard has ~~some~~ praise for Mr. Jack Gains. He told Ian and I that he had told Mr. Gains that he

California Condor

12 June 19

should have his name attached to the Condor survey ~~in~~ some way. To a question from me, that did he feel Mr. Gains qualified in every way to pass on the description of condors as to age classification, by color, and the habits of Condor. he, Howard, said he felt that no doubt Jack Gains was the greatest living authority on Condor in the world today. In answer to a question from Jan that had he, Howard, been up on the Hopper Rim on ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions} with groups, Mr. Howard stated he never took groups into the Refuge area. Later in answer to a question direct to him by Jan that had he, Paul Howard, been up on Hopper Rim Road with a group on Memorial Day, he, Mr. Howard said he had not been up on the Hopper road on Memorial day or any other day.

Mr. Howard, without being questioned concerning this subject - ~~told us~~ told us that Jack Gains was a salesman in his spare time and sold Trail bikes or Tote-Goats. He said Jack Gains had a Trail bike of his own that he used in his work for the forest service - according to Mr. Howard, Mr. Gains no longer having need for a horse has disposed of his horse and ~~uses~~ ^{uses} the Trail-bike in its place when patrolling or going over the Condor ~~at the~~ refuge area. Mr. Howard said he thought we could use Tote-goats or trail bikes to advantage in our work in studying the Condor in the Condor Refuge area and that he saw no reason why anyone would object to our using them in our research work.

Mr. Howard told us of seeing 8 ^{separate} ~~separate~~ Condor on a day spent in the Sespe area. Three of these 8 Condor were young, he said, and although he saw the 8 Condor at different times of the day he was sure they were all separate and different birds for he could easily identify the different features of each

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of them and thereby knew he was not seeing the same birds over again.

Paul Howard thought most Forest Service employees thought the Condor warden job in the Sespe River area, was far below the dignity of any able-bodied man.

Mr. Howard said that Jack Gains seemed quite proud of his job of watching out for the Condors and had developed a protective attitude toward the Condor.

Mr. Howard asked us if Mr. Gains had shown us where any of the Condor nest sites he knows of were located. We told him that Mr. Gains had shown us locations of Condor nest sites that he said he knew had been active. To this Mr. Howard said that Gains must be cooperating with us for he had not shown nest sites to any one else.

Mr. Howard stated to us that the more you know Jack Gains the more you feel he is a wonderful person.

After lunch we returned to El Monte Audubon Center and were shown about the grounds by Paul Howard who seemed very proud of the center area and very devoted and satisfied with his position.

We left El Monte at 2:30 p.m. and drove into Los Angeles where we had a brief meeting with Mr. Jantzen and Mr. Fullerton who is in charge of the Bureau of Patrol of Calif. Fish and Game for Southern California. Mr. Jantzen being Director of the Southern California Division of Calif. Fish and Game.

I am and after meeting and shaking hands with Director Jantzen and Chief Warden Fullerton, went to some detail in describing the purpose of our visit and that the matter of keeping our operations as much from the public eye as possible were ~~at~~

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surprised to have Mr. Jantzen state that he knew nothing of this Condor project and that any information they might have could not be classified as secret for it would be public property and therefore subject to public scrutiny. ~~Jan then briefed Mr. Jantzen on the~~ ~~for~~ He, Mr. Jantzen thought it best that we have the national Audubon Society write ^{him} Mr. Jantzen, or the Director in Sacramento, Mr. Shannon, appraising him of the content of this study, and then Mr. Shannon could notify Mr. Jantzen regarding what was to be ~~done~~ ^{done} the Department of Fish and Game in helping the study along. Jan then notified Mr. Jantzen that Mr. Shannon had long since been notified of the aspects of the Condor study and that he had thought Mr. Shannon had ~~already~~ ^{already} notified him (Mr. Jantzen) of such. Mr. Jantzen then stated that it was possible he may have gotten a letter from Director Shannon advising him the Condor Survey and that it could have slipped his ~~memory~~ ^{memory}. Both Jantzen and Mr. Fillmore then became quite friendly and communicative and the next 20 minutes were spent in discussing Condor - Total Counts - Falconry and Bird banding ~~the~~ the use of hair nets or any nets.

He left Los Angeles at 4:15 P.M., drove to The Sycamore Junction where we checked the dead pit again at Newhall Road & Cattle B. At being 5:00 P.M. as we drove to the dead pit - no buzzards were about although we did see several high in the air flying away from the pit area and two Buzzards were seen circling on the hill above the ~~we~~ we drove to Fillmore and via Sespe Valley to Cow Spring where we spent the night.

food checked

Lightening and Thunder in the distance most of the night, and several light showers of rain fell. We were up at 6:00 A.M. The air was clear, crisp, and some clouds and fog was about the Sespe area. We watched for Condor from the square flat (Elk Well) sight until 8:40 A.M. when we left for Ojai, arriving there at 10:00 A.M. only to find out Ranger Parkinson was not in so we drove on to Santa Barbara and met Clem Crouch in his office there - Superintendent Hansen not being in his office today. Mr. Crouch was in good spirits and we enjoyed a productive meeting with him - It was ^{agreed} ~~agreed~~ with Mr. Crouch that we would wait until Dr. Koford came and the exact date of our joining into the Condor Refuge with him known, it would then be that we would call Mr. Crouch, who in turn would have all things in order that we could go into the refuge with Dr. Koford for purposes of getting Dr. Koford's reaction to different aspects ~~so~~ important to Condor welfare as well as documenting the changes that had taken place since Dr. Koford worked in this area, on the former Condor study, Mr. Crouch thought ^{Dr. Koford's} ~~Dr. Koford's~~ coming and going into the refuge to be a good thing.

Mr. Crouch stated that it would be best if we took up the matter of getting a key to the Sancautanga area with Ranger Parkinson at Ojai. Matters such as Tame Goats, history of Sheep Pasture on the south section of Las Padias National Forest - Poison Woods - were discussed - Mr. Crouch also felt that most personnel of the Forest Service felt the Condor Warden Job to be the lowest one could

Continued - California Condor

13 June 1961

so in the Service, for Mr. Crouch felt most young ^{men} ~~men~~ in the employee of the Forest Service would not want to be left alone, as must a Condor Warden. The young people of today need someone to talk to. Mr. Crouch thought us at least to be entertained, he brought this out by saying how one will see young fellows walking down the street with a Transistor Radio in their hand listening to it as they walk.

Mr. Crouch thought Jack Gains well pleased with the Condor Warden job. He also stated that in the Forest Service one had to move to get promoted in pay so the Condor Warden's job had little future as a raise in pay. This Mr. Crouch thought was a factor in young fellows not wanting to work at this job -

We left Santa Barbara at 12:10 p.m. and arrived in Joso Pueblo where we left our car off at 2:45 p.m.

A ~~call~~ called Alonzo Woods of Bryson area from Hall's sporting goods store, wanting to find out if he would be home next Sunday afternoon. I thought he would have to work.

Cattle eating
Loco weed

Entering the Palo Prieta Canyon we noticed the Cholame Ranch Yearling Heifers eating the loco weed that grows to the south of the road as one enters this Canyon after crossing the bridge. This is the tall astragalus (asymmetricus) and it is now well seeded. The heifers were passing through the plants popping the pods as they ate them - The continual sound of the popping pods made a queer sound to me.

California Condor -

Eben Mathillan

14 June 1963

Ian arrived here at 1:00 p.m. and with my pickup loaded with camp gear we left for Tejon Ranch. Stopped at Tejon Ranch Office, in Lebec, where we got key to south and west end of ranch as well as what information concerning the ranch roads in the back country, which was not too much, then drove to Gorman on highway 99 and then out on Old Ridge Route to Sandberg where we checked in at Fire Control Station No. 77 of Los Angeles County where a Capt. Philip Goodell was in charge. Capt. Goodell had seen condor in the past but not this year. He knows condor and will be on the lookout for them. We then drove to top of Liebre Mountain where we chatted with Mrs. Mary Stahl who operates the U.S. Forest Service lookout there. Mary Stahl sees Condor pass by her Lookout station on ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions}, but has seen none this year. She was of the opinion that hunters who frequent the Liebre Mountain area during the deer hunting season would shoot at anything that moves. Mrs. Stahl thought the Los Angeles hunter to be far inferior to other hunters. She made this known to us by saying, "If you have never seen these Los Angeles Hunters then you don't even know what people will do with a gun and some booze."

Mrs. Stahl has been on Liebre Mt. Lookout for five years. She probably knows condor and has been sending in her sight records to the U.S. Forest Service.

We drove to Public Camp Ground that is situated about one half mile on up the ridge east of the Lookout and camped there for the night. The Liebre Mountain Campground would tend to substantiate Mrs. Stahl's description of the Los Angeles Deer Hunter. Every object about the Campground, that was shootable was riddled with bullet holes or Shotgun shot

See line 104

california Condor

Eben McMillan

14 June 19

Two metal outdoor toilets were mutilated with bullet holes and shotgun blasts - Some passing on through both sides of the buildings - ^{Covers} Covers were ~~attached~~ + taken from the garbage cans and made to look as though, at least, one quarter of their surface covered with bullet holes as if they had been hung on a nearby tree and shot from the camp places. All signboards in the camp area were made unreadable from the effects of bullets passing through them. This evidence of promiscuous shooting is entered only to show what could happen to the Condor that by this area in Deer hunting season. A strong North wind blew across the mountain tops all night.

Both Capt. Philip Goodell who manages the NO. 77 Fire Station for Los Angeles County at Sandberg and Mrs. Mary Stahl of the Liebie Lookout are very pleased with their jobs. Mr. Goodell stated that he liked his position so much that he would work for nothing were they to attempt to discontinue his office on account of finances. They both give every indication of being dedicated employees.

We were up with the sun - The wind that blew all night, strongly, abated after sunrise. A great variety of bird life was about our camp. We were surprised to see and hear house finches and Bullock's Orioles in this isolated situation - No Starling.

after re-assessing the damage about the camp done by hunters and campers we drove out along the ridge towards the East, following the well kept road that keeps to the ridge-top whenever possible - Good conditions for Condor roosting are available along both sides of this ridge out as far as the Elizabeth ^{Lake} Canyon Road where we turned North and dropped down into Pine Canyon where we stopped at a

roadhouse whose proprietor told us about a high net wire cyclone fence we had noticed along the highway. He said this fence had been constructed by an official of the Edison company who enjoying seeing deer about his house and not being able to keep them in the area where he lived due to shooting along the roads by hunters, had put up this high fence to keep the hunters out. This did not prevent shooting, for a deer was shot inside this fence by someone from the road, even though the deer could not be retrieved. The proprietor told us of a bullet passing through the back of his establishment passing through three walls and lodging in the fourth.

Real Estate developments are scattered throughout the Pine Canyon area their signs lining the roads in places. Pine Canyon also seems to be developing fast as a retreat for weekend people from the Los Angeles area who buy small acreages here and build cabins and generally improve their property on weekends.

I am not sure then crossed the Antelope valley

Tejon Ranch

California Condor

Eden McMillan

15 June 1954

Dan Garcia

Squirrel Poisoning

and entered a canyon leading up into the Tehachapi Mts.. In a cabin, in this ^{canyon} ~~cabin~~, we met a long time ^{acquaintance} ~~acquaintance~~, of ours, Mr. Dan Garcia who was in charge of a Kern County Squirrel Poisoning that were poisoning the squirrels on the Tejon Ranch. Mr. Garcia is 60 years old and was born of parents who homesteaded in the Tumbler mountains and Carrisa plains of East San Luis Obispo County in early days. Dan ^g to manhood in the Carrisa plains area spending most of early life ~~riding~~ after cattle throughout Eastern San Luis Obispo County. He told us that he never remembered seeing Condors until he came to the Tejon Ranch about 12 years ago. He thought he had been where Condors were before but only started noticing them on the Tejon ranch due to people there talking about them and discussing them causing Condors to become a matter of interest with him, as well as with most people on the Tejon Ranch. Dan Garcia has been doing the squirrel poisoning on Tejon Ranch for about 10 years. In 1954 he said unusually large numbers of carrion birds to feed on the squirrels that were dying or dead from the poison. He saw Condors continually throughout the month or so that he poisoned squirrels on Tejon Ranch that summer - 13 Condors was the largest number he saw together. He said the Condors would show up early in the mornings to feed on the dead squirrels causing him to think they were remaining in the general area where the poisoning was going on. Ample roost sites are available along the top and in the deep canyons of the Southern Tehachapi mountains. Mr. Garcia has never observed sick or dead Condors while poisoning on Tejon Ranch. He has never observed Condors on the Southeast Slope

Condors

Food

of the southern Tehachapi mountains. He will be on this southeast side of these mountains for several more weeks yet, poisoning, and will be on the lookout for Condor there. Dan Garcia said he has seen very few buzzards during this season of poisoning that commenced only about two weeks ago. He also said this season was the first time squirrels have been poisoned on the east slope of the mountains on Tejon Ranch property. The last two weeks have been Dan's first experience with this area, he never having been on this side of the ranch property before. Dan Garcia took us around back of the cabin, in which the poison crew and he were staying and showed us a ~~dead~~ dead Turkey Buzzard that he said had flown in and died there yesterday. The dead buzzard appeared to ~~have~~ be in juvenile plumage and the head was black and covered with dark down. Mr. Garcia thought it could have died from 1080 poison - The front of this buzzard's body appeared to have been damaged and blood was clotted near the skin surface, but under the skin. We thought more ~~likely~~ ^{likely} it could have been damaged somehow and died of the results.

I am chatting with a Mr. Tuck a barrower, who cares for cattle of the Newhall Land and Cattle Co, of Newhall, who have a grazing lease on the southeast side of Tejon Ranch. He knows condor having been raised up from childhood in this general area. He has not seen condor this year with the exception of two condor. he saw circling above Castaic Lake, near Lebec, some three or four weeks ago. Mr. Abercrombie will be on the lookout for Condor and keep notes on his sightings for us.

Tahachapi

California Condor

Eben McMillan

15 June 19

Tahachapi Shepherds

We drove to Lancaster for gasoline, then to Rosamond and Tahachapi via Dale Creek Canyon. We chatted with two shepherds who were tending flocks south of Monoligh. We did not think they had seen any Condor. They said very few of their sheep ~~die~~ die this time of the year. They will be on the lookout for Condors. We visited two other shepherds who herd flocks for Mendocino, they were south of the Town of Tahachapi and had not seen Condor. We then drove into the Cummings valley, south and west of Tahachapi, and returning to highway 466 drove to White Wolf pass, it is on west foot of Bear Mountain and camped for the night. No Condor seen today.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 June 1963

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Warm throughout the night - smog blanketing the San Joaquin valley below us as we left camp at 6:45 A.M. driving towards Arvin. High grasses cover all open hills and flats on west side of Tebachiapi mountains. We passed up at a station in Arvin that was operated by a fellow who had lived in this area for 16 years and knew less of the country than one would have thought possible for a person living in an area that length of time. He had never heard of Condor.

here

We drove south and entered a canyon leading up to Old Tejon Ranch Headquarters. A Mr. Joe Brown, of Arvin, who attends to the oil pumps of Standard Oil Co. in the Tejon Hills field was digging at the side of the road. We stopped and talked with him - He knows Condors. He remembered seeing one hanging on a fence, that someone had shot, to the east of Arvin some years ago. He said he had turned the incident in to fish and game officials, who he thought did little about it, for his ideas concerning the integrity of public officials, in general, was not good. He thought one could kill anything along the roads in the Arvin districts and not be bothered by Fish and Game Wardens. Mr. Brown, about 10 years ago had seen 17 Condor in the general area of the mouth of Tunis Canyon on Tejon Ranch. He has not seen Condor for several years.

We drove to home of Walter Fieguth who lives on the Tejon Ranch property and is one of the many ^{foremen} ~~foremen~~ on the Tejon Ranch. Mr. Fieguth was raised in the Templeton area and had worked with Ian harvesting some 26 years ago in the Shandon area. Fieguth knows Condors and claimed to have seen 55 ~~birds~~ Condor in one flock as they flew into the air from the carcass of a dead cow on which they had been feeding - in the area near the mouth of Tunis Canyon on Tejon Ranch, some 10 years ^{ago} ~~ago~~. Mr. Fieguth could not remember the exact year he saw these birds.

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

16 June 1963

Tejon Ranch

Mr. Fieguth came to the Tejon about 14 years ago. He does not recall seeing any condor this year. He did say the Tejon Ranch was having trouble with abortion in their heifer herd this spring. He said the Tejon Ranch does not run many ^{steers} ~~steers~~ of their own any more. The Ranch property has been divided into sections and all but the section on the southwest end of the Ranch is being leased to other parties who mostly run Mexican or Brahman replacement stock and cows and calves. The replacement cattle after once getting established on the range suffer very little death loss. Mr. Abercrombie of Newhall Land and Cattle Co., who is now from Tejon Ranch on southeast part of ranch said that of 3000 of these Mexican replacement cattle they brought in last year - winter of 1961-1962 - they had lost only 17 head - this over a six month season.

cattle death losses.

Food

A ~~virus~~ virus locally termed foothill abortion seems to be causing heavy loss to calves before birth in the general area of the south crescent of the San Joaquin valley. The Tejon had heavy loss last winter. Bert Snodden suffered losses in 1961 spring.

Hunting

Walter Fieguth thought the hunters on Tejon Ranch would be ~~about~~ good about shooting at objects not considered game species. The Tejon Ranch now lease out the hunting privileges on the ranch to different parties. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's group leases the southeast area where Don Gall is poisoning squirrels. The California Highway Patrol leases hunting rights on west portion of Ranch. Ranch employers have a section for their hunting privilege north and east of old headquarters and the Ranch owners have their hunting range to the south and west of old headquarters.

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Elmer McMillan

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about 300 Buck deer are ^{legally} ~~legally~~ shot on the Tejon Ranch each year. Ranch Patrolmen investigate any excessive shooting that goes on on the Ranch - all hunters must spend the night off the Ranch property. Both Dan Garcia and Walter Fieguth feel that large birds are relatively safe from being shot on Tejon Property.

The Northeast portion of the Tejon Ranch is leased to Mr. ~~McMillan~~ ^{Mendiburo} - a Sheep man, who has sheep there now.

Mr. Fieguth said that up until two years ago he had been manager of most operations on Tejon Ranch, but ~~that~~ at that time the Ranch operation was changed radically. College educated ~~personnel~~ ^{Personnel} with degrees in different phases of Ranch operation were brought in and each new specialist had his own section and operation to look after. Mr. Fieguth feels this move has not proven successful on Tejon Ranch, stating many instances to us of ~~lack~~ ^{lack} of experience by the new personnel on a large operation causing ~~many~~ ^{problems}.

Mr. Fieguth thought sections of Tejon Ranch would be subdivided and sold in lots for development before long.

We drove past the old Headquarters of Tejon Ranch on our way up into the mountains. All phases of the operation did seem in a state of decline. The buildings and fences about the old Headquarters were in a state of disrepair. We proceeded up one of the many roads that lead into the mountains, on Tejon Ranch. After getting to top of main Mt. chain we skirted the head of Tunis Canyon - and lunched on a promontory overlooking both Antelope Valley - Los Angeles basin - and Lower San Joaquin valley as well as a good view of Cummings and Bear mountains. This point was on the main ridge between the headwaters of

California Condor

Eden McMillan

16 Jun 98

^{Pastoria}
Tunis and ~~Pastoria~~ Canyon to the west. All cattle
up high looked very good. Good numbers of Tall Pine - and
fir trees in the upper range making for ample roosting
sites for Condor. A red-Tailed Hawk and four vireos were
only large birds we observed on top of the mountain.

Returning to the valley floor, by way of ridge between Tunis
and ^{Pastoria}~~Pastoria~~ Canyon we saw a flock of Crows and
many Starling among the Oaks.

When on top of the Point where we lunched, several unob-
scured passages were visible where Condor could fly from the
Sespe and Hopper Canyon areas directly into the
San Joaquin Valley and Tejon section. One of
these passages would be via Hole-in-the-Wall between
Whittaker Mt. and Cobblestone Mt. across ^{Sandberg}~~Sandberg~~ to
Northwest of Liebre Mountain across west end of
Antelope Valley and directly over bear-trap and
^{Pastoria}~~Pastoria~~ Canyons and into Tejon Flats -

Another flight route for Condor visible from this loc-
ation would be around on west sides of McDonald
and Alamo mountains thence down pine river
to Lockwood Flat, thence northeast around E
base of Frazier Mountain, and then out above
Lebec and ^{Castac}~~Castac~~ Lake to east of Grapevine
peak and into Tejon and South-San Joaquin
valley area. The last, or third, direct route for
Condor flying from Sespe area to Tejon Range
and South San Joaquin valley area, would be up
Sespe valley into Mutau Flats, thence into
Lockwood Valley, over Chuchupate Ranger
Station into Cuddy Valley, and down Grapevine
Creek and out into Tejon Flats of South
San Joaquin Valley.

Most livestock during summer months, on

Tejon Ranch, range in the high ^{elevations} ~~pages~~ of the Tehachapi mountains. Condor feeding on any dead livestock here ^{would} ~~could~~ probably hold to higher elevations, ^{than} ~~then~~ would be the case in winter when most livestock are down on the flats. Death losses on livestock Ranches throughout the range country of central California are probably at a minimum during the summer and early fall months.

We ^{crossed} ~~crossed~~ the south end of the San Joaquin valley, stopping at the home of Henry Melendy at foot of Grapevine Canyon.

He is wildlife warden for Tejon Ranch. He was not at home.

At 3:30 P.M. we stopped at home of Bert Snedden, in Maricopa, where Mr. Snedden re-told the experience he had in the fall of 1961 when he observed a flock of

60 Condor circling above a flat in Santiago Creek where a dead heifer had attracted them. After listening to

Bert Snedden's account of this experience there remains only one possibility where he could have been mistaken. That being

that 30 or more Swainson's hawk were in the air above the spot where the observation was made. according to

Mr. Snedden's account, upon seeing some Condor circling the area mentioned, drove to this spot in haste knowing

some animal belonging to him had died. As he came in sight of the flat mentioned he saw several Condor rise

into the air above the dead heifer. Snedden then saw

that there were about 27 or 28 Condor in the flock that flew from the spot where they had been feeding

on the dead heifer. ~~while~~ While counting this group of Condor Mr. Snedden noticed a larger group of Condor

circling high above. Being a Guman and having much practice counting numbers of milling animals Mr. Snedden

counted all the Condor in sight several times coming up

with an average count of 60 Condor. There is no doubt

with me that Snedden knows Condor. I am sure he does-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 June 1966

Bert Snedden has been in the cattle business for many years in the Maricopa area and has had cattle in the Sisquoc area of Santa Barbara County at times and has seen and known Condor most of his life. Also I would class him as a very reliable person and one not give to over-rating anything he might see, or describe. Therefore I am rating this observation of Bert Snedden as ~~90 percent~~ having a 95 percent chance of being right and 5 percent chance of being wrong. The 5 percent chance would be on the chance that Mr. Snedden does not know Swainson's Hawk and that the "big bunch" of Condor that were above the 27 or 28 Condor that flew up from the dead heifer, were light-phased Swainson's Hawk and that Snedden counted them as Condor. I have observed Swainson's Hawk in large bunches, on the south end of Carrisa plains, which is not far from the area where Snedden observed these birds. Swainson Hawk, in spring, will gather in flocks and circle high in the air - and could look somewhat like Condor with the white under the wings, but I have never observed Swainson's hawk traveling through central California in numbers in the fall of the ~~year~~^{year}. Snedden said Condor had been frequenting the Santiago Canyon area for several weeks prior to the observation mentioned above. He had been losing calves, they mostly being born dead and making preferable Condor food.

Ian said ~~Bert~~ Bert Snedden gave identical accounts of observing the 60 Condor in talking with us today as he did when describing the account to him some several weeks ago.

Simi Valley
Newhall
Hwy 99

California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 June 1963

2329

I left the John Taft home in Santa Rosa Valley Northeast of Camarillo at 10:00 a.m. Heavy smog and haze made observation difficult as I stopped at the Simi Valley area where ^{Bruce} ~~Bruce~~ Strathern has his hunting club. Strathern was not about so I drove to dead pit of Newhall Land and Cattle Company at Castiac Junction on highway 99. NO carrion birds were about the dead-pit nor had any new animal bodies been dumped in the pit since 9am and 9 were there last. As I left the dead-pit Two Turkey Buzzards came in above the area of the pit, but did not drop down to feed - I was at the pit from 11:45^{am} to 12:30 p.m..

food -
meat
not

valley

passing up highway 99 ~~to~~ to Hungry Valley I drove in and to ranch of Amadio Del Nero who knows Condor and will keep watch and record any of these birds that pass his ranch that lies in foothills of Frazier Mountain on the east side of this mountain mass. Mr. Del Nero felt that Condor would be shot by most deer hunters if they came close enough and the hunters shot was accurate. He thought Young hunters were poorer sports than are the older hunters. He also said that the road passing near his home carries as many cars the first weekend of deer season as does the main 99 highway. He used this similarity to impress that great numbers of hunters come into the Alamo Mountain and Frazier Mountain areas to hunt.

waters
waiting at
condor.

I then drove to home of Mrs. C. B. Maxey who lives in an arm of Hungry Valley to the north of Mr. Del Nero's place. Mrs. Maxey is 94 years old and lives by herself. She has lived in Hungry Valley at times, since 1910 and living ~~here~~ ^{there} continually since 1917 - Mrs. Maxey has been interested in birds all her life and has many bird books in her living room. She thought Condor, that used to be commonly observed about her home when she first came -

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Hungry

Dead Condor

Hungry

G.W. Reynolds

Hungry

Condor -

to Hungry Valley in 1910 commenced to disappear at the time hunters commenced coming into the area in good numbers. Mrs. Maxey also felt all other forms of wildlife have suffered through the promiscuous shooting ^{of} ~~the~~ hunters. Mrs. Maxey told me that her husband who worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 15 years prior to his death ~~in~~ 25 years ago, had brought in a dead Condor so that she might see it. He had found it dead from what he thought was gunshot, up on Frasier Mountain where he operated the lookout station there. Her age and disability prevents Mrs. Maxey from going out where she can look for Condor. Therefore she has not seen Condor for several years." It's the hunters that have spoiled my outdoor stated Mrs. Maxey.

G.W. Reynolds who lives in a cabin directly behind the Maxey home has been in Hungry Valley for 30 years. He knows Condor and ^{like} ~~as~~ Mrs. Maxey, thought Condor much more common 25 years ago in the Hungry Valley area, ^{than} ~~that~~ is the case today. He ^{too} ~~also~~ thinks Deer hunters responsible for the disappearance of Condor from Hungry Valley. G.W. Reynolds last saw Condor in Hungry Valley last November. He then saw two Condor in mid-morning flying north towards Lebec. Some ten years ago Mr. Reynolds was living on the Schmidt ranch one mile to the south of the Maxey Ranch when a horse belonging to Al Arndale died and was dragged out on a flat 1/4 mile east of the Schmidt cabin and in view of the cabin occupants. Two Condor came to the horse carcass to feed as did two wild or feral dogs. One of those dogs was a small shepherding dog the other a tall ^{rangy} ~~rangy~~ animal - Mr. Reynolds

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said he watched the Condor run the dogs away from the horse carcass and would not let them return until they, the Condors, had satisfied their ~~appetites~~ ^{appetites}.

G.W. Reynolds does not think Condors have ever roosted overnight in the large Valley Oak trees that grow in the canyon where the Maxey home is located. He will be watching for Condor now and will keep records for us of their numbers etc. ~~as~~ ^{as} well as phone us in the event something unusual appears to take place.

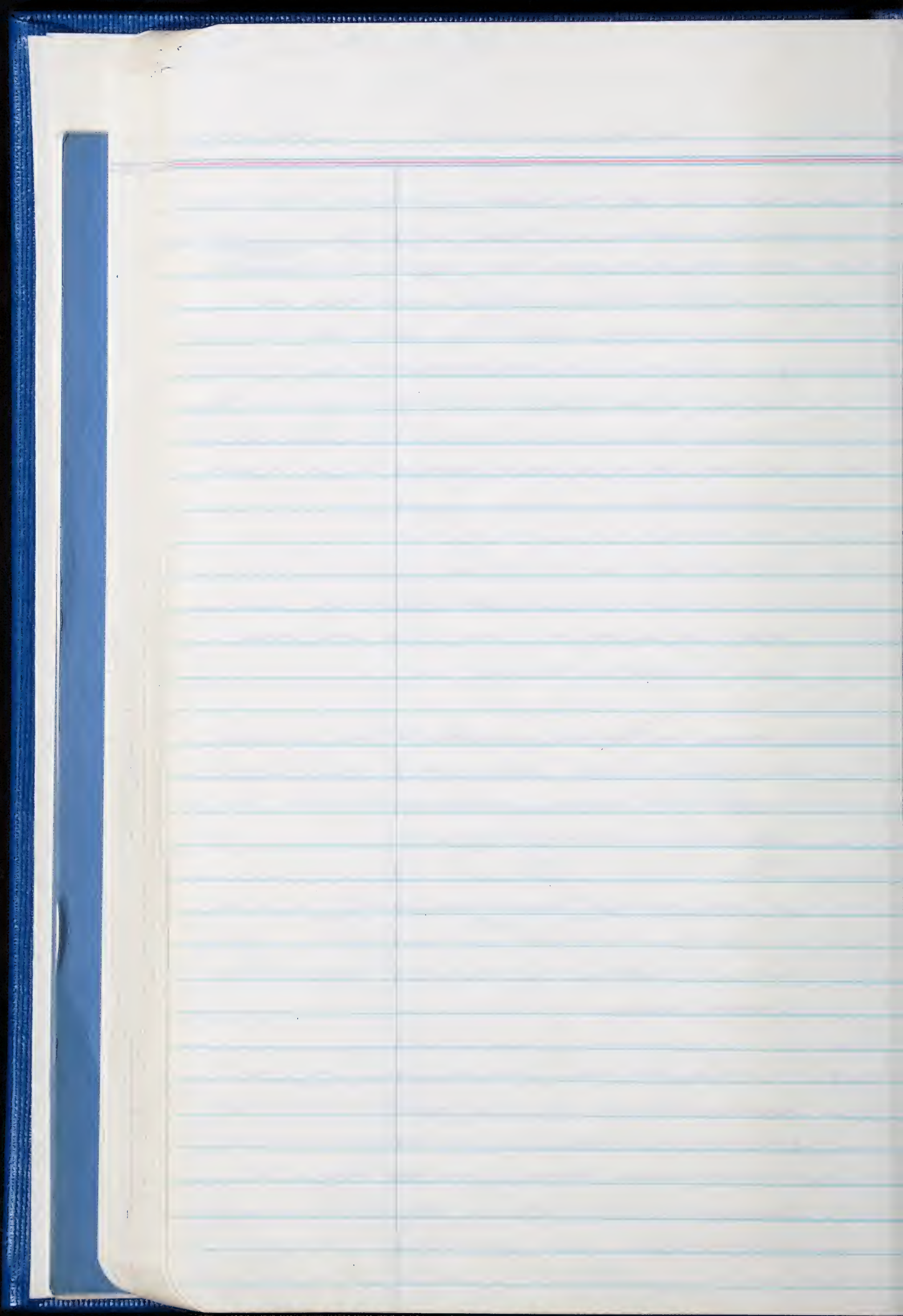
It will be interesting to see if increased interest in Condor, brought on by our visiting these people and discussing Condor, will bring forth more than usual observation records.

Ty Vultures

~~Mr.~~ Mr. Reynolds, as did Mr. Del Nero, mentioned the scarcity of Turkey Vultures in the Hungry Valley area. Both of these men think squirrel poison has done away with most Buzzards.

I saw several Turkey Vultures circling above on the mountainside to the left of ^(west) 99 highway as I passed out of the mountains and entered the flats via the Grapevine Canyon.

It was cool in the Los Angeles basin. Smog and fog was responsible for poor visibility - Clearing took place as we proceeded up 99 Northward and the temperature rose. The temperature was 88 degrees in Maxey home in Hungry Valley and 102 degrees in Bakersfield.

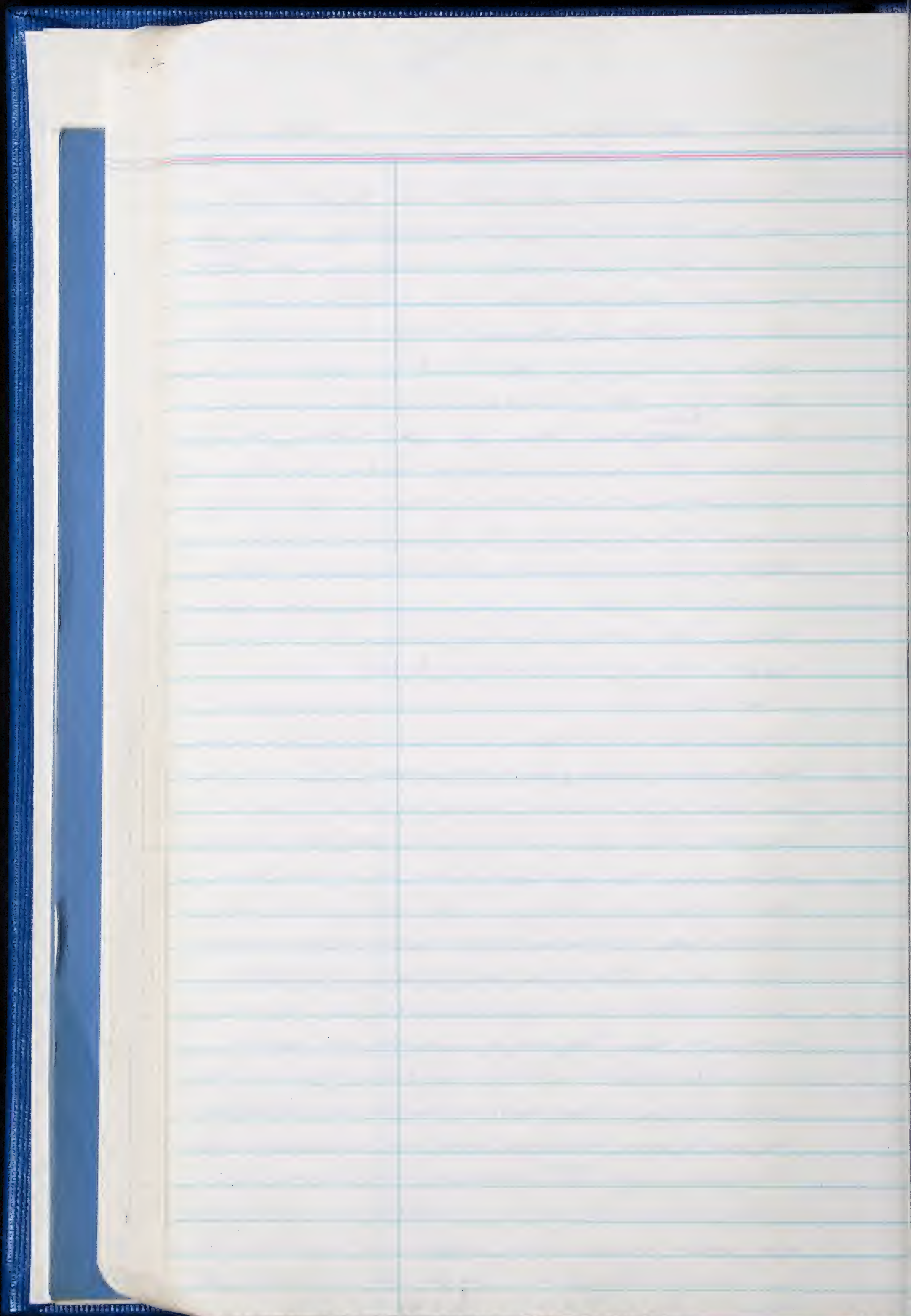


The flock of Ewes with small lambs is still on the San Juan river below the La Panza Bridge on highway 178.

NO dead sheep were seen here this morning. Two ~~Turkey~~ ^{turkey}

✓ Buzzards were seen feeding on the sheep carcass that lay on the flat where the fence crosses $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below La Panza bridge - this sheep had died about three months ago. This flock of lambs and ewes are penned ~~every~~ ^{every} night from signs left about. AS I passed over the La Panza Bridge heading towards Carrisa plains at 11:45 A.M. I saw a fellow with pants rolled up to his knees wading in the creek above the bridge - This may have been a new herder left to care for this flock. AS all other sheep seem to have been shipped away from the Navajo and San Juan River lands of Rudnick Trust.

Two sheep had died within the week out of a flock belonging to Asparin and Martin, that are running in old Canyon, a tributary of the San Juan river that joins the San Juan 2 miles south of La Panza Bridge and is on the east side of the San Juan Valley - The herder here said he had seen no large birds feeding on the sheep bodies - He said several ~~but~~ (Buzzard) had come to the carcass farthest from his camp and that many Corvus (Raven) had fed on this body also. The sheep body nearest his camp, about 200 yards, had been dead two days and had not been fed on by anything yet. I went to the carcass of the sheep that had died about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from the Shepherd's camp and quite high on a hill above his camp. There were indications that many carrion birds had fed on this carcass. At this carcass I found a feather that I think was from a Condor - one of the plume-like upper tail Coverts, many down-like feathers were scattered on the ground for some distance from this carcass and the grass ~~was~~ ^{was} well matted down showing that many birds had been stepping about this body. The Shepherd told me he would watch for Condor and Corvus then should any come to feed on the carcass near his camp. He also said that although he had seen two Coyotes lately - nothing had bothered his flock of young Ewes and a few Buck sheep.



Ian came at 4:00 am. with pickup, Trailer and Two horses.

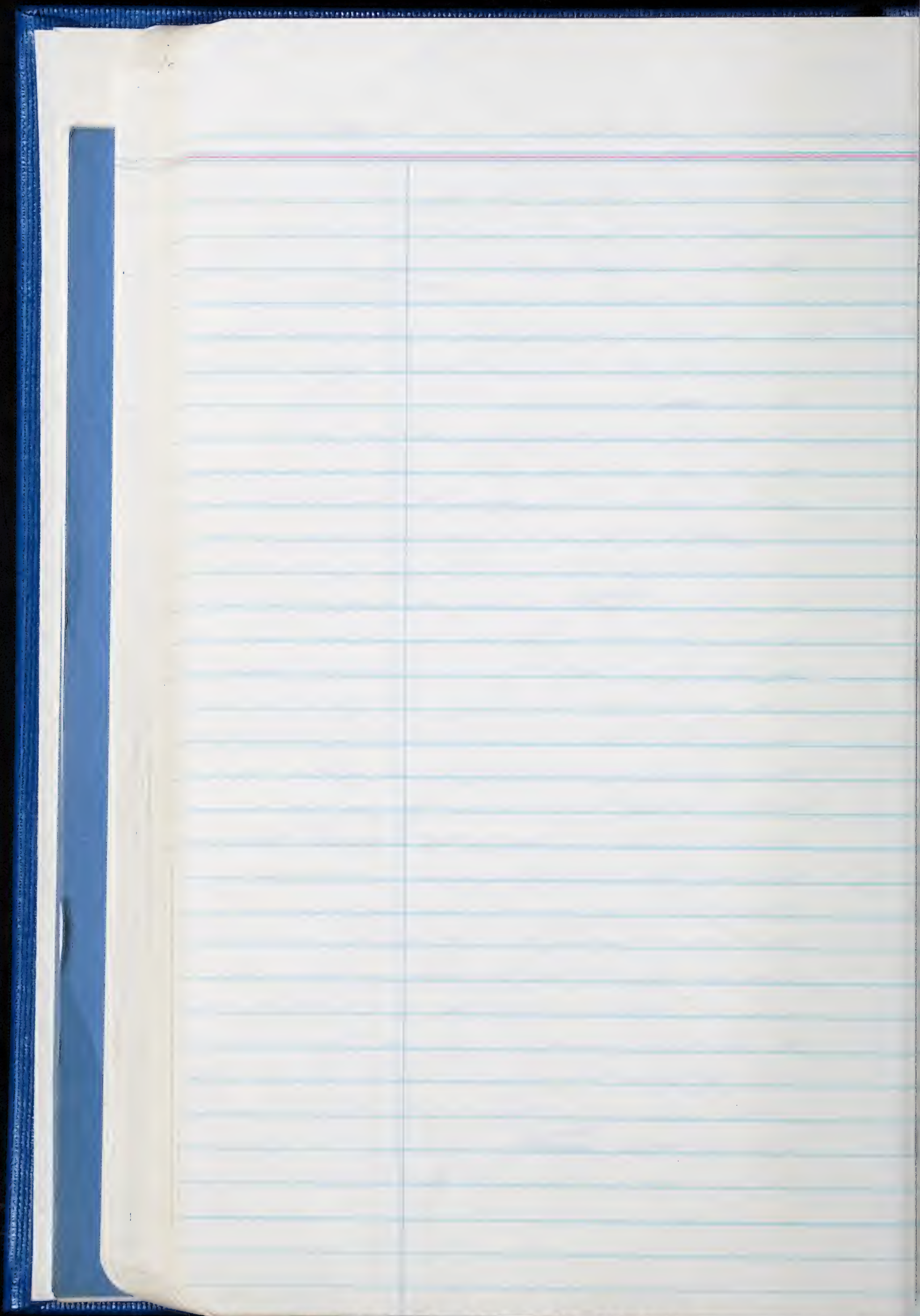
I loaded in my saddle and camp gear and we rolled down

Bitterwater and around through Taft, Maricopa arriving at

Kentucopa, U.S. Forest Service Station ^{in Coyama Valley} about 7:30 p.m.. Mr.

who officiates this station showed us where to put our horses for the night as well as giving us all information necessary to our stay in the ~~pit~~ bunkhouse Tonight.

We cooked our supper, chatted with the fellows whose job it is to grade all Forest Service roads in the Las Padas forest and who had just been over the road from Los Prietos Ranger station. Past Little Pine and Big Pine mountains and on to Santa Barbara Canyon where they are now presently working. These fellows told us of having seen Three Bear on their trip, ~~through~~ ^{through} the mountains just described, and that they had seen no large birds and few deer. They said that many Trail Bikes or Tote-gotes had been using the road they worked on as they could see their trucks, made over the weekends, when they returned to work on Monday morning. They said many of these trail-bikes would leave the roads to ~~go~~ go about the area when the landscape permitted leaving the road. These men also said they worked by themselves when on road construction, seldom seeing any officials of the forest service and remaining in the forest camps along the route except when going in to Santa Barbara on weekends. One of the cabins in which they were camped when working this road was broken into during their absence on a weekend, and several items of canned food and groceries they had left in this cabin were taken by this person or persons who entered the cabin by reaching through a broken window pane and thereby unlocking the window, entering the cabin by stepping ~~through~~ ^{through} the window onto one of the road crews beds and leaving by the same route.



Sierra Madre
Sierra

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Yucca River
look camp

We were up, had breakfast, were loaded and at the Reyes Ranch in Santa Barbara canyon, in Cuyama valley, by 7:15 AM. District Ranger Ed. ^{Morse} ~~Morris~~ from the Cuyama office of U.S. Forest Service, came with saddles and camp gear and accompanied by Kern county supervisor, Vance Webb of Taft, Calif., Robt. Marshall ^{Crocker-Anglo Bank} manager of ~~Bank~~ branch office in Taft, California and John Holman of Cuyama, California, an employee of the Richfield Oil Company who represented, ^I ~~understood~~, the sportsman council of central Calif. Ranger Morris opened the locked Gate and we proceeded to the Top of the Sierra Madre Range where Ranger Morris, ~~and~~ representing the U.S. Forest Service, showed us plots of brush he is having removed in a land development plan he is personally planning and supervising in co-operation with the stock people who are helping in this project by constructing fences around these cleared and seeded areas. These cleared areas are not large, probably comprising not more than a total acreage of 100 acres. Clearing the brush from these areas cost the U.S. Government 25 dollars per acre which is quite cheap, Ranger ^{Morse} ~~Morris~~ told us, as the contractor who did the job lost money on the job and is planning on charging fifteen to twenty dollars more per acre for clearing brush for any additional acreage. ^{Ten dollars} ~~per acre~~ planting of these cleared acreages runs to about ~~per acre~~ per acre.

These costs will bring the expense of developing into grazing, an acre of this land, to about seventy five dollars. This would not include U.S. ^{GOVERNMENT} ~~Government~~ personnel expenses, such as surveying - planning - automotive and road maintenance. Most of the soils being developed here are shallow and marginal. Humus in these cleared areas is mostly the result of chaparral deposition that's saturation point is quite low. One hillside, near the road, that had been cleared and sowed to grass showed results of severe erosion, even though the soil still held much brush and shrub residue. Ranger ^{Morse} ~~Morris~~ said the ranchers, or stockmen, who leased from the Forest Service in the Cuyama -

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area opposed his orders that livestock be withdrawn from the U.S. forest range during the winter months, but that they had now come to recognize this edict as a beneficial action.

We unloaded the horses at the windmill and water tank on Salisbury ~~Potrero~~^{Potrero} where Ranger Norris had a pack mule and three saddlehorses for he and two of the other men, Mr. Marshall having brought his own horse in a trailer behind Ranger Norris's trailer. The mule was packed with bedding, fishing rods - food for all of us, and we took to the trail for Southfork Guard Station, on Sisquoc in Santa Barbara County, 9 am and 9 carrying our bedrolls and clothing behind our own saddles. We paid our share of food.

As we proceeded down the trail towards Southfork Camp Ranger Norris told me that the reason for his bringing the other three fellows on this trip was to acquaint them with the projected changes in the boundary of the ~~San Rafael~~^{San Rafael} Wild Area that will extend the Northeast boundary of this Wild Area up out of the bottom of the Sisquoc River proper to a point about one-half mile Northeast along a zigzag line from point to point of the prominent landmarks along the west slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains in this area. This would give Wild Area status to all of the main canyon bottom of the Sisquoc River.

We all stopped for lunch among some rocks on the ridge between Sweetwater and Forester's Leap canyons. It was while we were eating lunch that Ranger Norris told us of plans he had submitted that would open the road from Bates Ridge at the Northwest end of the main Mt. ~~Mass~~^{Mass} on the Southwest side of Coyama Valley through to Santa Barbara Canyon. The development of the cleared brush areas would no longer ~~necessitate~~ necessitate holding the west slope of the top of Sierra Madre Range, along and to the Northeast of Sisquoc River, in a fire closure area and would

therefore make it possible for the top of this range, where suitable locations prevail, to be developed into recreational area for motorists as well as constructing roadways leading down the points to the boundary of the wild area ^(San Rafael) ~~(San Diego)~~ whereby those wishing to go to the Sequoia river could do so with only a moderate distance to hike. Ranger Norris also explained to us his plans to construct many more camp sites on the Sequoia river and to re-construct the hiking trails going down into the Sequoia river from the Sierra Madre crest, whereby, no grade would exceed ten percent. I brought to Ranger Norris's attention the tracks of an automobile as well as those of several Trail Bikes. He, (Mr. Norris) said the automobile tracks were caused by an army vehicle, the personnel of which go as far down this narrow-hiking and horseback trail, ~~as far~~ as they can proceed, every now and then, to take readings of a rain gauge that is situated on the roof of the Guard Station at Southfork Camp. The Army personnel using this trail, so as far as is possible in an automobile vehicle, then use horses to complete the journey to the Cabin and back to the Army vehicle. Mr. Norris thought this was ^{all right} ~~all right~~ in that the Forest Service could make use of the rainfall records collected by the army in the process.

Our party arrived at Southfork Guard Station, on the Sequoia river by 2:30 P.M.. Ranger Norris opened the Guard Station and brought out cots and mattresses which we individually set up and put our sleeping bags on. After the haul was unpacked and we had rested a bit, Dan and I rode up the Sequoia river to Falls Canyon where we climbed the mountainside opposite Falls Canyon and watched the area until 7:00 P.M.. During the two hours we had the falls, and accompanying area, under observation, one Golden Eagle flew in and alighted in a cleft in —

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Mt. Quail

the rock face to the east side of the waterfall and remained there until we left the area. a pair of Mountain Quail with several freshly hatched young were in the small grass covered opening near the river-bed when we returned to our horses.

Returning to Southfork Camp by sunset we found supper had been prepared by Ranger Norris, John Holman and Vance Webb. Bob Marshall was fishing and returned later than we. At supper we all discussed matters of forest management and human needs. Ranger Norris is firmly convinced that his time as forest Ranger of the Coiyama district is best served by developing the out-of-the-way places whereby more people can get to them more easily. He held ^{quantitative} ~~quantitative~~ values far above qualitative values and the reason he gave for this is that the forest Service allocate him funds on the amount of human usage his area receives - therefore the more people he can get to the Siskiyou, or surrounding, areas, the more money he will be given to spend on further development and therefore the bigger his force will become and the more important his office will be. Mr. Norris spoke of his having led a former group into the Siskiyou River, South Fork Guard station, to acquaint them with his development plans. He also has a group ready to take in soon as he gets organized again. Fire closure of all areas south and west of Sierra Madre Ridge takes effect July 1st. Probably he will have to accomplish this task before that date.

There is every indication here that Ranger Norris is completely on his own as far as plans for the future use of his section of the U.S. Forest Service lands are concerned. Provided of course he can secure appropriations to do the work.

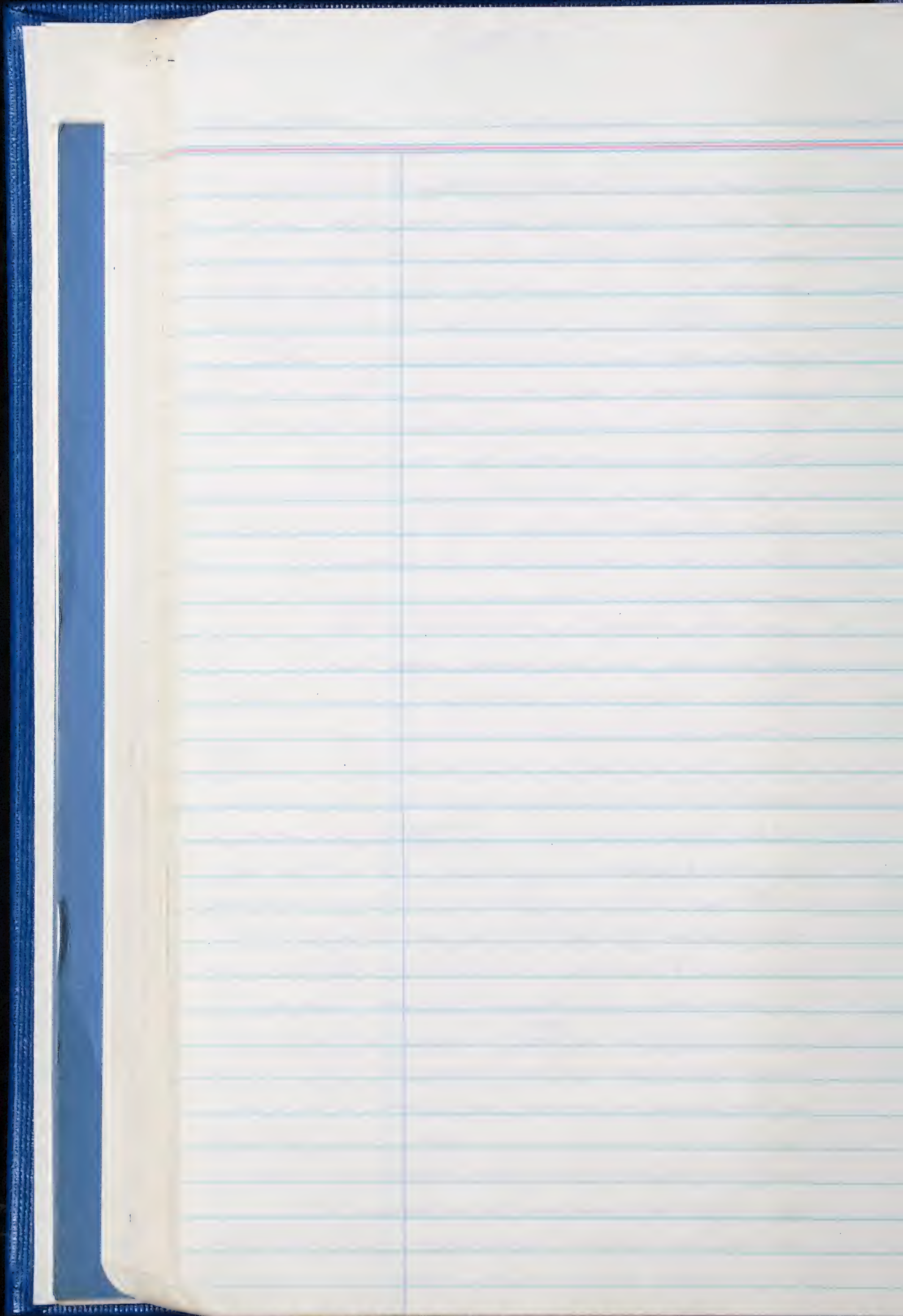
all hands were up and had finished breakfast by 8:30 A.M.
at 10:00 A.M. Ranger Norris, John Holman, Bob Marshall, Jan
and I headed up the Sisquoc River on horseback. Two
red-tailed hawks were seen circling above the west side of
the river ~~gorge~~^{gorge} about 1/2 mile above our camp. We lunched
at Cottonwood Camp, proceeded on up river to ~~within~~^{within} a
short distance of Bear camp when the ^{late} hour of day forced
us to return to South-fork guard station before dark. One
Red-Tailed Hawk seen on return down canyon.

The day remained cool with some light clouds at times.
Observation conditions were perfect throughout the day.
a brisk west wind commenced blowing in the evening.

At dusk a poor-will ~~can~~ flew in and alighted on a rock
within 50 feet of where we sat eating our supper. This poor-
will flew away when Bob Marshall walked towards it.

During the night a Fox called from the darkness nearby
the cabin.

During our trip, or ride, up the Canyon today, Ranger ^{Morse} ~~Norris~~
stated he considered himself an expert on all things
dealing with forestry or the ^{management} ~~management~~ of a forest.
When asked what the name of a certain shrub was
he identified it as an Elder from the berries on its stems.
The shrub he identified as Elder was, I am quite sure,
Ceanothus leucodermis, or, Chaparral Whitethorn, a very
important successional plant in the forest lands of
interior California. Mr. ^{Morse} ~~Norris~~ also identified an amorpha as a
Locust. It is known as a mock Locust, but is not a true Locust.
Mr. Norris ~~can~~ can identify very few birds, he not knowing
the difference between a crow and a Raven. In fact his knowledge
of the living animals and plants of the area in which he works is
very limited - surely not a man to be trusted with
determining the ecological values of any given area; But here
he is - apparently foot-loose and fancy free.



I
Jan and ~~myself~~ packed our sleeping-bags and some victuals on our horses, bid farewell to the other members of the party, who planned returning to Luyama this afternoon, and with instructions to them to leave our pickup and trailer at Santa Barbara Potreritos as they drove out from Salisbury Potreritos, we ~~took~~^{rode} up the Sisquoc River at 10:00 AM. One Red-tailed Hawk and one Turkey Vulture were observed before we reached the falls canyon trail. Turning up Falls Canyon Trail as we reached an altitude that would be on somewhat the same level as the falls of falls canyon, we observed a Black Swift fly by below us heading in the direction of the falls area and holding close above the top of the ~~chaparral~~ chaparral as it flew on. Above the Falls, in falls canyon, about three-eighths of a mile, a good sized rock face looks out over the Sisquoc river area. A bench, on this rock, showed signs of having been used as a roost-site ~~for~~^{by} large birds for much white excrement had been deposited on this bench in the past and is still very evident. To me, this gave reasonable evidence that Condor had used this spot to roost on in the past. We yelled and shouted and clapped our hands in the hope of getting a Condor to appear, but no luck. A Duck Hawk flew up from what appeared to be the falls area and circled our area emitting calls as it passed over our heads. This rock-face would appear to be the only place suitable for Condor nesting in the falls canyon area. It being ~~within~~^{within} one-quarter mile distance of the trail, we were on, would seem to me to nullify it as a possible nesting area for Condor now. The trail passing so close to this Rock Face neutralizes any advantage the Condor refuge, that encompasses Falls Canyon, would have in saving Condor and could only localize the search anyone might be making ~~that~~ who would rob eggs or further disturb Condor—

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in any way. I can see no advantage to be further obtained, in the interests of Condor Preservation, by keeping this small refuge that by its very remoteness, makes any guarding or policing of its secrets, worthless. Therefore it would seem in the best interests of a dedicated program to save Condor that this small refuge only tends to weaken strict discipline in protective measures to save and protect Condor, and its dis-continuance should be expedited with all haste.

We pushed on up Falls Canyon Trail that led us through mission pines, a group of mature pine and cedar. The pines were of Ponderosa, Coulter and Sugar varieties and many dead snags of these species offered very good roosting perches for Condor. The Falls Canyon Trail, that passes through mission pines is not extensively used by hikers or horseback travelers. We saw no sign of human usage that had taken place since the last rain which was some few days ago. It is too rough for Trail-Bikes. A U.S. Forest Service Trail crew had spent some effort on the Falls Canyon Trail this spring that made it very enjoyable to travel by horseback.

Proceeding along Falls Canyon trail we passed through mission pines and into mission pines basin where we began to see a few tracks of Deer. Deer seem to be very scarce in the Sierrita river and throughout the chaparral areas that cover much of the lower and central areas of the ^{San Rafael} ~~San Rafael~~ mountain mass as well as the general to east slope of the Sierrita drainage. In the mission pines basin we came upon the crossing place of Falls Canyon Trail, and the main trail that follows the top of the ridge from West Pine Lookout to San Rafael mountain and on to Caceres Guard station. Turning left and East at this -

fork we proceeded eastward towards West Big Pine Lookout. More Deer signs were now seen on the trail and a mountain lion had passed along in front of us on this trail either last night or the night before; also a Bear had been traveling over this trail recently.

A Golden Eagle appeared briefly to the northeast of us, only to dip behind a mountain and disappear. We arrived at West Big Pine Lookout at 4:30 p.m. and spent some time here taking photographs and acquainting ourselves with the Geography of the area which can be well observed from this Lookout. A ~~road~~ ~~road~~ road serves this West Big Pine Lookout and is well maintained even though the Lookout has not been in service for several years. Several windows about the Lookout had been broken out and things appeared generally unkempt. Trail-bikes and one automobile had been to the Lookout since the last rain but no shooting up of signs nor general vandalism could be evidenced thereabouts.

We left West Big Pine Lookout at 5:00 p.m., and soon hit the main Forest Service roadway that comes from the Santa Ynez River up past Little Pine Mountain, to Big Pine Mountain, to Alamar Guard Station and then on out to Santa Barbara ~~Potrero~~ ~~Potrero~~ and Santa Barbara Canyon. Two Deer were seen on this roadway as we proceeded along west side of Big Pine Mountain and a Golden Eagle circled above us, mountain-top-wise for several minutes. The top 1000 feet of Big Pine Mountain is well timbered with elegant stands of yellow and sugar pine as well as cedar and fir. A pair of Ravens were about in the forest trees and a small flock of Band-Tailed Pigeons flew out of the pine trees. Mountain Quail ran along the road in front of us.

We arrived at Alamar Guard Station at 7:00 p.m. and promptly went into Quarters there as a brisk north—

California Condor -

Eben McMillan

23 June 19

Alamar Guard Station
camp

Wind had come up and the temperature had dropped sharply. We fed our horses from a stack of baled hay that was covered over with plastic cloth, munched cheese and bread ourselves and were in our sleeping bags by dark.

The North wind increased in intensity and by 9:00 P.M. it was howling in the pines.

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We remained in our bags until 8:00 A.M. as the cold North wind, which shook our cabin all last night still blew this morning and we wanted to leave this cabin at a time when condor might be flying. We saddled and packed and were away on the roadway by 8:30 A.M. Even though we kept very alert and observant during the two and one quarter hour ride to our car at Santa Barbara Potrero's we saw no large Raptorial birds saving one hawklike bird, at a great distance, that by its quick ~~gyrations~~ ^{gyrations} offered ample evidence that it could not have been a Condor.

Loading our horses we drove down Santa Barbara Canyon to the home of Gertrude Reyes who told us that no Condor had been seen in her area for several years. But that formally, just after they had taken over the Santa Barbara Canyon and accompanying ~~Potreros~~ ^{Potreros} on top of the Sierra Madre ridge in 1944, from the Shedden family who formally operated this area, that many Condor used to be seen quite often. Mrs. Reyes was wondering if the Condor's had vanished somewhere.

Formally, the Sisquoc Ranch ran cattle the full length of the Sisquoc River and all its tributaries, from the Sisquoc Ranch holdings on up to the river's headwaters. In 1927 the last of several fires raged through the Sisquoc River upper drainage - This created ample food for livestock and Deer - This created, in turn, ample food for Condor. No Cattle now graze the upper Sisquoc River basin and the Forest Service has drastically cut the number of livestock Ranchers can pasture on the forest lands. This practice of the Forest Service in limiting numbers of animals grazing and the extensive growth of Chaparral cover over most of the area drastically limits the amount of food available to Condor in this area today. —

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24 June 1993

It is also of historical interest that sheep ranged the Sisquoc river drainage extensively throughout the latter part of the 19th century in great numbers. Remains of tree stumps, as well as decaying logs, testify that at an earlier date much of the mountain country of Santa Barbara County was well timbered and therefore much more open and devoted to grassland than the case today. Forests no doubt covered many of the slopes that are today pure stands of Chaparral.

Mrs. Reyes stated that she knew little of future plans for development of the Sierra Madre ridge for public recreation purposes but that she would ~~vigorously~~ vigorously oppose any move to put a road through Santa Barbara Canyon or through the Potteros on the Sierra Madre Ridge portions of which she owns.

It is ^{apparent} ~~apparent~~ that either the Forest Service is withholding information of future developmental plans from Mrs. Reyes or else she is disinterested in the matter to the extent of not seeking information.

Mrs. Reyes stated she would help us by recruiting the help of her son Freddy Reyes in watching and reporting any Condor activity they might observe in the area.

We drove to Cuyama Ranger Station and returned the gate keys to Ranger ^{Morse} ~~Morris~~. His memory was somewhat hazy as to a report he had given Jan sometime back regarding his seeing two dead Condors in the Cuyama Valley ^{Near} ~~Near~~ the river, to the east of the Town of Old Cuyama. He stated he had physically observed one dead Condor there - He had not reported this incident to the proper authorities nor had he made any note of it in his daily Journal of activities.

We were home by 4:15 P.M.

Late in the evening a Mr. Robert Whiting, who

Dead Condor

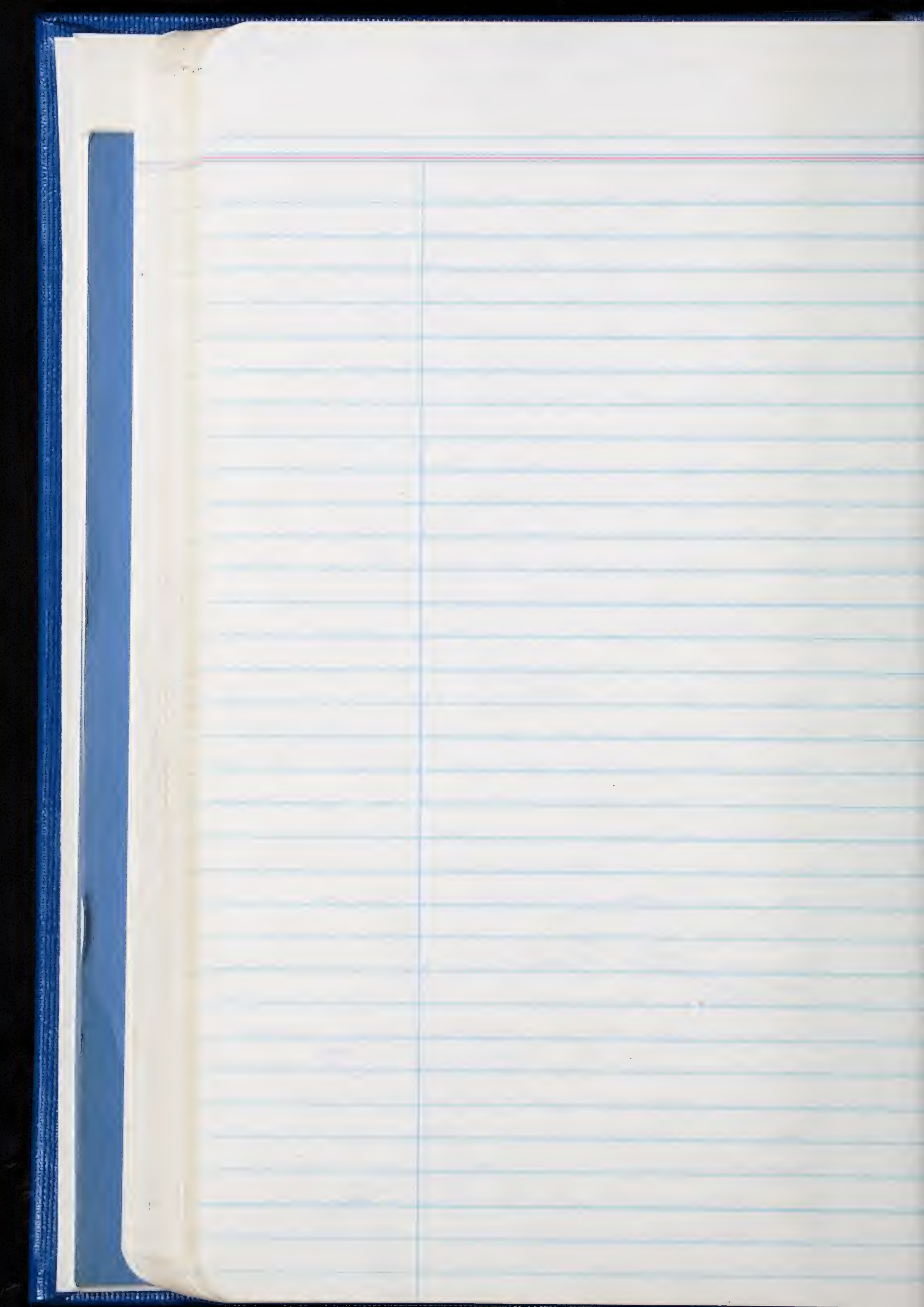
california Condor

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claimed to be a student at U.S.C. in Los Angeles, and a member of the Cinema Department of that school, called from Paso Robles and wanted directions as to where he could photograph Condor. He said he had long lenses and would only need to get reasonably close in order to photograph the birds either on the wing or possibly coming in to food. He said he had been to the Tejon Ranch and had inquired there about Condor. ~~The~~ One of the Officials told him there was a study going on regarding Condor at the present, and that he would try and get the names of the persons who were doing this study. This Mr. Whiting said he had read Koford's monograph of the Condor and from this had come to San Luis Obispo, County, hunting for Condor as the monograph had mentioned the Cholame flats, near Cholame, Cal. as a good place to see Condor. He also said he had talked with Ed Harrison who told him he thought there were about 38 Condor left. Harrison also told him of the present study of the Condor in progress and that the McMillan's, from Shandon, were doing the work with the University of California as directors. He wanted to come out and talk with me but I discouraged this by telling him I had no information available ~~available~~ and that I was a rancher, on whose property Condor had come to feed in the past, and that any information I could give would only ^{hinder} the research work being conducted here and to let it out to everybody Tom, Dick, or Harry that came along who wanted to take pictures of Condor. I told him that I could not prevent him from coming to Cholame to ^{look} ~~take~~ for Condor, but that were he to enter onto any property unauthorized he could be arrested and hauled into Court.



I went to the Carrisa plains, via Pinole Ranch where I stopped to check with a shepherd at the Pinole Spring who said he had seen no large birds come to the carcass of a sheep that died near his house trailer. This shepherd has been in the U.S. for one year, having come here at the age of 18 years. In his native country, Spain, he had never worked with sheep but being interested in mechanics and had learned the truck repair business. His father has been in the United States for eight years, coming here as a shepherd and now working as an agricultural worker in the San Joaquin Valley.

The shepherd whose flock grazes in Old Canyon, which is about five miles due west of the Carrisa plains school, said he saw many birds come and feed on the sheep carcass that I had opened with my knife some four or five days ago, but that he saw no large birds with white under their wings.

food

He also said two more sheep had died in the second canyon west of his camp in the last few days. I hiked to this area but found no dead sheep, probably not going far enough. I noted vines of Lupine (Albigrons) that had been pruned by sheep that were eating them. No green vegetation except large vines of Haplopappus and lupine are available to these sheep. They do not seem to eat the Haplopappus under any condition. Even though large lupine is seldom eaten by livestock, this flock of sheep are eating this lupine now. I feel the lupine is causing the recent deaths among these sheep.

I investigated the carcass of the sheep that had died near the shepherd's trailer house and the one that I had opened with my knife some several days ago. I did not see anything that would lead me to feel Condor had fed on this carcass although it had been well eaten on.

food

Driving to San Juan River below La Panza Ranch bridge, on highway 178, I found the body of a dead sheep in the water of the river about one mile north of this bridge.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 June 1963

Six or seven Turkey Buzzards were feeding on this dead sheep even though they had to stand in four or five inches of water while feeding. Across the river and one-half mile further down the river I found one Turkey Buzzard feeding on the remains of a lamb carcass that appeared to have been dead two or three days and except for the skin and bones was well disposed.

At 11:30 a.m. I drove to Navajo Creek where I found the Camp tender and the French shepherd reclining in their cots, near their camp, that sets in the shade of a large Valley Oak tree near where the main sheep camp has been located here in Navajo Valley. The Camp tender told me that Pedro is still camped on the river with his flock of sheep and that the ewes and lambs on the river are corralled each evening by he and the Frenchman. He thought all the sheep on the Navajo range would be gone within two weeks. I had thought all the sheep, the ewes and lambs ^{on the river} had been shipped, but the Camp tender said he had found for Pedro's flock so they were kept on the river.

The Frenchman said he had seen condor last week above the area where the ewes and lambs are located. Home by 12:45 p.m.

To Jan McMillan's home at 2:30 p.m. where he and I discussed condor with Carl Kofoed who with his son Rolf had driven down from Berkeley, Calif. where he is visiting relatives. In the evening I showed what condor motion pictures I have to Dr. Kofoed.

Kofoed

Foggy and cool until 9:00 A.M. this morning and a brisk west wind was blowing as I picked up Carl Koford and son Rolf for a ride to the Navajo and San Juan River area below La Panza Ranch. Arriving at the Sheep Camp in the Navajo valley, we found that Pedro had brought his flock from the river, and was to rest them during the day at the Navajo Camp, as he joined the Camp tender and the Frenchmen for a ride to Paso Robles or Bakersfield. Pedro told us of two dead sheep on the river, one at the water-
hole one-half mile downstream from Swallow Rock while the other was on a hillside, one canyon south of the Cedar Spring Navajo Ridge road and about one third the way from the river to the top of ridge. We drove over the ridge to the River and found both Sheep Carcasses. Each carcass was being worked on by several Turkey Buzzards and a few Ravens. On the mound of dirt that had been thrown up by a bulldozer to create the water hole, one-half mile north of Swallow Rock, and where nearby, in the dry river bed, one of the Sheep Carcasses lay, we left the bodies of four Cottontail Rabbits that Rolf Koford had killed last evening with a 22 cal. Rifle. We then drove back on top of Navajo Ridge, out the highway 178, then to road that goes down on west side of San Juan River to the North of La Panza bridge.

As we passed down San Juan River we saw an adult Condor circling the flat where the river makes the bend westward about 1 mile north of La Panza Bridge. We all got a good look at this Condor as it circled only a bit north of us and not too high. It was 12:30 P.M. when we first saw this bird. We watched it for about ten minutes, easily making out the feather gaps in its wings. All identification marks of this bird were exactly the same as the tagged bird which was one of the pair of Condors—

Navajo

california condor

Eben McMillan

27 June 1963

I had seen one-half mile down river from this spot ~~at~~
 at 11:50 A.M. on June 9, 1963. Carl Koford thought this condor
 lacked the luster white under the wings of a full plumaged
 adult and he was of the opinion this bird was either just
 out of the post juvenile coloration or else it had moulted
 several of the white under-wing feathers and the darker ones
 behind were showing through. This bird showed definite
 wide white bars on the back of the wings. But I think
 the slate color was somewhat dull on the back of this
 bird.

After watching this condor gain altitude and
 drift downriver and having a Red-Tailed hawk
 move in behind it at one point, but not close enough
 to worry the condor - we lost sight of this bird. We
 then drove to the edge of the River-bed nearby,
 and hiked across the shallow water to investigate

Food

the Sheep Carcass that lay in the water and at which
 I had seen four or five Turkey buzzards feeding yesterday.

In the sand near this sheep carcass we found several Condor Tracks. I
 Koford thought had been made this morning, but from the experience
 had with the young condor tracks, from which I made the plaster
 Paris casts, I judged them to have been formed yesterday.

Food

We then drove to the river near 16 Spring and near the ~~at~~
 non-occupied trailer house there looked over the remains
 of a lamb that had been cleaned up a week, or so ago.
 We found no feathers that Dr. Koford would class as
 being from a condor. We drove up on the bench
 overlooking the river here and partook of lunch
 provisions.

Retracing

Retracing

our route we returned to the Navajo
 ridge, proceeded along same northward and turned
 eastward down the steep roadway that comes out
 on the river one mile up the river towards Small

Rock from Cedar Spring. Rolf Koford spent some 10 or more minutes shooting his 22 caliber rifle at a jackrabbit that ran out in front of us just before we reached the river valley floor. From where Rolf was doing this shooting we could look down and see several Buzzards and a Raven feeding on the cottontail bodies we had left near the waterhole this morning and near where the dead sheep lay in the river-bed. Rolf's shooting did not disturb any of these Buzzards nor the Raven that fed with them. Driving to this waterhole, we did not frighten the Buzzards into the air until coming within 200 feet of them and three of these Buzzards that were feeding on the sheep carcass in the river-bed, and hidden from our view ^{by} a low bank, did not see us and flush into the air until we walked within 40 feet of them. All remains of the four cottontails we had left this morning at this site had been cleaned of all edible meat by the scavengers. The fur and bones only remaining. We all searched this area for feathers, or tracks, of Condor, but found none. Several Buzzards continued to circle this area while we were there.

Leaving this waterhole, we ^{drove} ~~drove~~ down the river valley, at 2:20 P.M., As we reached the canyon up which the road runs, To reach the ridge ^{top} up which the road proceeds to the top of the Navajo ridge, we saw an adult Condor flying over the tops of the low oaks that are scattered about the hillsides here, and pumping its wings in order to get elevation. From its flight pattern we were quite sure this Condor had just left ^{the} dead sheep carcass that is on the hillside across the canyon from this road we were on, but only in sight further up the ridge than where we were now parked. As this Condor gained elevation and commenced circling north of us and above the river valley, we could identify it from missing feathers as the same Condor we had observed on the San Juan River at 12:30 P.M. one mile north of La Panza bridge on highway 178. This adult Condor gained altitude very fast and in ten minutes was very high out to the northeast of us from where it went into

California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 June 1963

the Flex-slide and sailed out to the southwest. at one point in the long glide this bird ~~continued~~ on before passing out of sight behind a hill, on the east side of the river, it turned and glided southeastward for about two minutes but was again headed southwest and in the general direction of the Bear-trap Rocks where it passed from our view, never having broken this long glide while we watched it.

imm condor

Driving on up the ridge we came ~~in~~ to the place where we could look across the canyon and see the dead sheep on the hillside to the southwest of us. Carl Keeford first scanning the group of 15 plus Buzzards gathered about this sheep carcass first thought nothing but Buzzards to be in this group, but on closer looking thought a young Condor to be among the Buzzards. I then got my glasses and in looking at the closely grouped birds about the carcass, one could make out something shining among them. This later turned out to be the folded wing feathers of the young ^{condor} ~~condor~~. Then as the Buzzards stepped back and allowed for a more detailed look one could see the much longer legs of the young Condor and of course when it walked but away from the group of Buzzards its greater size was most evident. Up to 20 Buzzards were about this carcass at the same time as we watched, 6 or 7 of the Buzzards remaining in the shade of a Juniper bush that was about 60 ft. above the sheep carcass on the hillside. The young Condor and the Buzzards showed animosity towards one another and all fed close together. The young Condor at one point in tugging at the meat pulled off from the body a

California Condor.

Elben Mcmillan

27 June 1963

large chunk, the effort of which somewhat caused the bird to lose its balance, somewhat. Several Buzzards jumped back out of the Condor's way as if a bit wary of this bird when it struggled in pulling this meat. But soon all were close together again feeding and paying little attention to the Condor or the Condor to the Buzzards. At times the Condor would walk away 4 or 5 feet as if overfilled with food or else crowded too close by the Buzzards but would soon step back in and be feeding again.

While Koford and his son watched from the pickup, that was parked about 450 yards from the sheep carcass, I took the Telephoto 35 camera and hiked down a canyon, up a draw to a ridge within about 250 yards of the Condor and Buzzards feeding on the sheep carcass, and there took several B+W pictures while most of the Buzzards and the Condor continued to feed. I then dropped over this ridge, in sight of the feeding birds, and entered a draw that hid me from the view of the birds at the carcass and proceeded up this draw in the hopes of getting a close shot of the Condor feeding at the carcass with the Buzzards. After being in this draw only a short time I saw Buzzards commence to fly past me down the canyon and I then heard Koford yell that was to signal me that the Condor had flown. The Condor then came into view, coming down the canyon and about 200 ft. ^{the} south of me. ~~It~~ ^{It} commenced circling after it was somewhat further down the canyon and continued to do so as it drifted slowly over the river valley floor. I shot several pictures of it in flight.

The young Condor was very ~~similar~~ similar to the bird I observed, photographed and took plaster of Paris casts of its tracks on the river near 16 Spring on 1 June 1963.

California Condor

Elton McMillan

27 June

There is strong indications that this is that same bird and that it is remaining in this area to feed or else it was hatched somewhere nearby, and is still a resident. Carl Keeford identified this young Condor as between one and two years old. He felt it probable that the adult Condor he saw on two ^{occasions} ~~occasions~~, this morning could have been one of the parents of this young bird, and that there still remained some family ties between them.

The young Condor after circling high while drifting across the river to the east side of the Valley then returned and circled above the sheep carcass that was ~~already~~ ^{already} being visited by one Turkey Buzzard that had returned to feed on it and several more Buzzards were circling above in the air. The young Condor circled above this location for about 10 minutes then gaining altitude drifted out to the Southwest and passed from view.

A stiff, cool, west wind blew most of the day - the air was very clear and the sun bright. Visibility was excellent.

The young Condor was first seen at 2:40 P.M. and last passed from our view at 3:20 P.M.

Foggy again this morning but not as thick as yesterday and it was well burned off by 9:00 A.M. I drove to the San Juan River via The Pines - Camatta Ranch and off highway 178 to the left at Navajo ridge. Drove north to where steep road goes down towards Swallow Rock and took this road to River valley below. As I arrived at the waterhole ^{at 11:30 AM} 1/2 mile north of Swallow Rock, I saw an adult condor circling near the foothills on the west side of the valley about 3/8 of a mile away to the northwest. This bird, like the adult we saw yesterday, was not pure white under the wings but had all the characteristics of a full adult bird - but this bird had no feathers missing from the wings that were visible from the ground, although there appeared to be some gap in the left wing, but where the primaries commence, as it was viewed from behind as it swung in a circle. Perhaps one of the primary feathers were ^{loose} ~~loose~~ and only showed from behind. I feel this bird had been feeding at the sheep carcass on the hillside at which we saw the young bird yesterday, and heard me coming down the steep grade thusly causing it to fly into the air.

A gentle north wind was blowing or perhaps more northeast in direction. This condor circled as it slowly drifted eastward across the valley. When it went into the flex - glide it had considerable elevation and seemed to drift out in a northeast direction in a somewhat zig ^{zag} ~~zag~~ way, not taking a true course and staying on it. It passed out of sight still high and still heading northeast, at 11:55 A.M.

I then drove on down the river road to Blue Point, that is near the north line of Rudnick property looking for the house - trailer of Pedro the shepherd who had been camped on the river near Cedar Spring. No sign of shepherd so returned and ^{at 12:20 PM.} was just turning up ridge road to go on top, as I saw an adult condor circle behind an oak tree and drop out of sight.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

28 June 1963

Feeding

Feeding site on
hillside
near road

10/10/63 Condor feed.

Condor feeding -

in the area where the sheep carcass on which the Condor this morning had probably fed and where the young Condor fed yesterday. I left the pickup here at the crossroad point and taking the photo 35 camera and Binoculars hiked up the canyon and came out on the hilltop from where I photographed the young Condor yesterday. This adult Condor was picking at the sheep carcass on the hillside that by now was mostly skin and bones. I got behind a small bush and raising up took several shots of the Condor and 5 or 6 Turkey Buzzards that were gathered about the remains with the Condor.

The Buzzards did not move in and feed with this adult Condor as they did with the young bird yesterday. When one of the Buzzards would attempt to move in and feed the Condor would strike a threatening pose then move towards the Buzzard that would then lose no time in running back out of the way 8 or ten feet.

As this Condor fed it would stop at frequent intervals to look around and make sure all was clear. Usually it would look up at intervals of every 12 or 13 seconds but some time it would feed for 30 seconds before looking up and at other times it would look up every 7 or 8 seconds.

The hide and bones now being quite dry would have lost most of its weight. The Condor would shake and toss it around as it tugged for what morsels of flesh still remained on the bones.

At 1:05 p.m. the ~~adult~~ Condor walked up the hillside from the sheep carcass and stood looking out my way. After standing still for about 30 seconds it opened its wings held them high and then beat the air with them for 3 or four strokes. I was amazed to see how -

rapid this bird could beat the huge wings without creating any evident energy or thrust upwards. After the condor had beat its wings it remained stationary for several minutes while the Buzzards that had dashed away a safe distance, ^{while} ~~when~~ the wing beating ^{went on} ~~began~~, now returned to the carcass to feed. The Condor now disregarded the Buzzards feeding and gave signs of being restless. After a three minute wait, after the wing beating, the Condor spread its wings a bit, hopped down the hill two or three times and took to the air easily, drifting directly down the canyon and out across the river valley to a point well on the east side of the river valley before it commenced to circle and gain altitude. As it circled and rose upward I took several pictures to show the glint ~~of~~ shine that reflects from the upper wing and body feathers of adult Condor when they bank into a turn when circling for elevation. After gaining some altitude this Condor then drifted over towards me giving good opportunity to see that this was yet another bird that I had, as yet, not seen. Only ^{the} two outside primaries of the left wing were full length, giving a queer appearance to this wing tip. All other wing feathers seemed to be in good shape and the white under the wings of this bird was very bright white.

This Condor circled above me for several minutes, gaining moderate elevation after which it went into the flex-glide and moved along towards the southeast. It lost altitude fast and when last seen was below the top of the hills to the south of Carnaza Canyon and moving along southward to the east of the San Juan River valley. When last seen this bird was heading into a canyon area. The time was 1:15 P.m.

I drove to area on San Juan river below La Panza bridge -

Condor

2 wing of outer
was full length

California Condor

Eben Nicholson

28 JUNE 1963

and checked the flock of Ewes and Lambs but found no dead animals - Pedro - the shepherd had moved his flock there as well having his Trailer-house spotted under one of the Cottonwood trees on the point by the river before it makes the bend in crossing the River valley to the spring. His sheep were in the river just below the La Panza Bridge - I did not see Pedro about. ~~Returning~~ Returning to the sheep carcass on which the Condor had fed, I hiked across the canyon ~~and~~ from the road and photographed the sheep carcass, or what remained of the sheep carcass. Then drove back on top of Navajo ridge and down into Navajo Canyon stopping to photograph sheep Trails and Kangaroo Rat Trails along side the road leading off the Navajo Ridge to the Navajo Valley.

Arrived home at 5:15 p.m.

Left home at 7:30 A.M. in the hopes of getting to the La Panza-San Juan River area early enough to catch the Condors coming down the San Juan valley from the Bear-Trap Rocks if this is where they are staying. A man Pedro who was watching his flock about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below La Panza Bridge on the San Juan River. He had lost no sheep of late nor had he seen Condor about. He told me of the plans of the shepherd to come and dock the tails of the lambs on the river as well as castrate the young bucks. Pedro thought this would be done this afternoon or tomorrow and that there was a good chance some of the lambs would die from loss of blood or infection. He thought it a good chance that Condor would come in to feed should any of the lambs expire.

I climbed to the top of the pointed hill that is located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of La Panza Bridge and on the west side of the river and from where I had a commanding view of all the surrounding country. During the course of my stay on this hill a brisk breeze was blowing from the East. Turkey Buzzards came by where I sat at intervals seeming to come in groups, for when one Buzzard would swing by to investigate me, others would also be along shortly. Their flight on this hilltop was very erratic due to the updrafts of the brisk wind as it passed over the top of this hill. Two young prairie falcon remained about the top of this hill, playing with one another on the wing and screaming or begging. Raven also came and went, swinging in enroute to look me over.

at 12:45 P.M. I saw a Condor at a distance of about three miles away circling just above the top of Navajo Ridge out to the west of Swallow Rock. This Condor circled a few times just above the ridge-top then seemed to ^{hit} an updraft of air that carried it to a great height in the matter of only 2 or 3 minutes and during the course of 5 or 6 circles. From this good height this Condor - too far away to identify as to age or -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

29 June 1966

feather structure, turned out eastward, dropped into the flex-glide and passed out of sight still high and still traveled generally eastward, at 12:55 p.m.,

I remained on the hilltop lookout until 2:45 p.m.. Came down drove to Pinole spring to find the flock of sheep that had been centered there had moved ten miles east and south to the Rector Place. Home at 3:30 p.m.

Navajo

California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 July 1963

2329

arrived on San Juan River, one mile north of La Panza bridge
 on highway 178 at 9:45. A young condor in the one-to-two year
 plumage was circling above the 16 Spring as I drove to this spot.
 This condor circled this area for about five minutes, then drifted
 slowly northward along the west side of the San Juan River valley, passing
 from sight against the hills to the north. I drove to the flat below
 the big Oak tree at 16 Spring and carried three Jackrabbits and
 two squirrel (Calif. Groundsquirrel) carcasses to a short
 draw that opened out on the west river bank about
 three hundred yards north of 16 Spring. I dumped the carcasses
 in this draw in a location where they were up from the bottom
 so as to give any large flying bird some elevation from which to
 take off. I then hiked down the river to where the Ewes and
 Lambs were feeding and there found the body of one lamb that had
 died sometime Yesterday afternoon to last night from the effects
 of having been Castorated and also having its Tail docked. Some
 mammal had opened the ~~stomach~~^{stomach} cavity of this sheep and eaten
 the entrails as well as chewing several of the rib bones away.
 I dragged the carcass of this lamb and left it near the same
 spot where I left the Jackrabbits and squirrels. I then cleared
 out a spot in the center of a Juniper bush that stood on a
 hillside 100 yards south of the carcasses and about 100 feet
 higher than they were. Entering this bush with my binoculars and
 Telephoto camera I awaited Buzzards or Condor to come and
 feed. Turkey Buzzards soon came in to investigate the situation and
 even though I thought myself well hidden, nevertheless I think I was
 the first object these birds located. Buzzards would fly back and
 forth above the Juniper in which I was hiding. They would turn their heads
 sideways and glare down through the branches at me. ~~They~~ as they
 passed above me their wings would keep up a low whistling ~~whine~~ whine.
 They also located the carcasses but it was evident that they would not
 come to feed knowing my presence so at 12:45, after one hour and
 one half in the bush - I came out and started down towards my -

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

1 July 1963

Condor adult

pickup car. Looking up I saw an adult Condor flying out over the center of the river valley in an easterly direction. I watched it with the binoculars as it reached the East side of the valley and there turned Northward and seem to loaf along, circling at times - and going nowhere in particular. I continued on to the pickup and drove it up the river eastward three eighths of a mile and there backed it under a cottonwood tree, out of sight from above, and waited, watching.

Soon Buzzards came in and circled the spot where the ^{CARCASSES} ~~carcasses~~ were, but they were very suspicious. One Buzzard dropped to ground and remained near the carcasses for two or three minutes only to fly away again. While watching the Buzzards circling the area near the carcasses I saw

Condor

an adult Condor come out of the draw flapping its wings and not over 200 ft. from the ground. This bird must have flown into the ^{draw} ~~draw~~ while I was watching the Buzzards and I did not see it until it turned to come out of the draw. This Condor flew over the river valley pumping its wings and only commenced circling and gaining altitude after it reached the foot on the east side of the valley. I took several photos of it as it circled, but it ^{was} ~~was~~ too far away for the prints to be effective in identification. The bird had several ragged gaps in the wings and the 3rd and 6th primaries on the left wing were new and somewhat shorter than the other primary feathers. This could be the same bird I have seen before and have called it the Ragged bird. It circled about along the east side of the river valley and then appeared to drift Northward and was lost from sight. The ^{Buzzards left} ~~Buzzards left~~ at 3:10 p.m. The Buzzards returned to the area where the carcasses were. First one alighted and walked to one of the Jackrabbit carcasses and commenced eating. Soon others dropped in from all sides

The Buzzards fed on the Ground Squirrels first then on the Jackrabbits and never on the sheep while I was there.

not adult at 3:20 p.m. an adult Condor sailed in from the southeast circled above where the Buzzards fed two or three times and then alighted on one of the top branches of a moderately sized Oak tree that ~~grew~~ ^{was} up the draw from the carcasses about ¹⁵⁰ ~~100~~ yards and about 100 feet higher on the hillside. This Condor landed on a rather small branch and being headed west when alighting had some difficulty in turning around to face downhill where the Buzzards were feeding - a Buzzard came and alighted in the same tree ~~to~~ soon after the Condor alighted. 16 Plus Buzzards were now competing over the Jackrabbit Carcasses, ~~and~~ the squirrels ^{already} ~~already~~ having been consumed. Much wing flapping going on. The Condor held its wings ^{out} to balance as it shifted its position on the branch from time to time. It also did some preening of its front breast feathers.

at 3:35 p.m. the Condor flew from the tree, circled above the feeding Buzzards twice then set down on top of the hill, directly above where the carcasses were left, and about 150 feet from these carcasses - It stood on this hilltop for several minutes looking about, then crouched low, gave three hops, opened its wings and circling dropped down and alighted on the hillside about 30 feet above where the Buzzards were feeding on the carcasses. after alighting here and several times thereafter when among the Buzzards this Condor would look down at the ground and hop about as though afraid that a snake or a trap of some sort was ~~concealed~~ ^{concealed} there. After alighting near the Buzzards this Condor took several minutes looking about before it moved down among the Buzzards. When the Condor did walk down among the Buzzards, they all gave it clearance and to any Buzzard that hesitated to get out of its way a menacing attitude with head down, ^{wings} ~~wings~~ ^{partially} ~~partially~~ extended -

NAVED

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

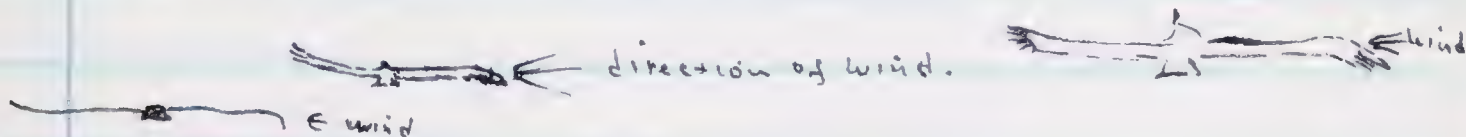
1 July 1963

and a quick move Towards it by the Condor was enough to cause the Buzzard to take care and get out of the way. Some Buzzards were fighting among themselves over small bits of carrion. The Condor would bluff these buzzards ~~away~~ away, then search about on the ground for what they were fighting over. I never saw the Condor pick anything sizable although it would pick at the ground where Buzzards had been competing among themselves. At no time did the Condor go to the Jackrabbit bodies that lay on the ground within ten feet of it. Most of the time it was among the Buzzards. Now did it or any of the Buzzards touch the Lamb carcass although a Raven ^{occasionally} did and pulled at the Lamb carcass on one ~~occasion~~ ^{occasion}. a Pine Tar ^{Preparation} ~~Preparation~~ which is put on the Lambs, when the Hails are docked, or the young bucks are castrated, leaves a sticky, smelly, substance about where it is applied. This may be the reason ~~that~~ this Lamb carcass was not eaten on.

At 3:50 P.M. something frightened the Buzzards that all took to the wing, some alighting 50 feet away, others circling the area several minutes before ~~returning~~ returning to feed. When Buzzards took flight the Condor hopped about flapping its wings as though confused, then ran up the hill 30 feet and looked about as the Buzzards returned. The Condor remained on the hillside, above where the Buzzards were again feeding, seeming nervous and suspicious. At 3:55 P.M. it partially opened its wings, lowered its head close to the ground, then hopped twice and was airborne. ^{it} ~~it~~ Pumped its way across the River valley holding less than a 100 ft. elevation until it hit the raise of the hills that go up abruptly from the east side of the river valley. Here this Condor seemed to hit air currents that during three turning circles raised the bird.

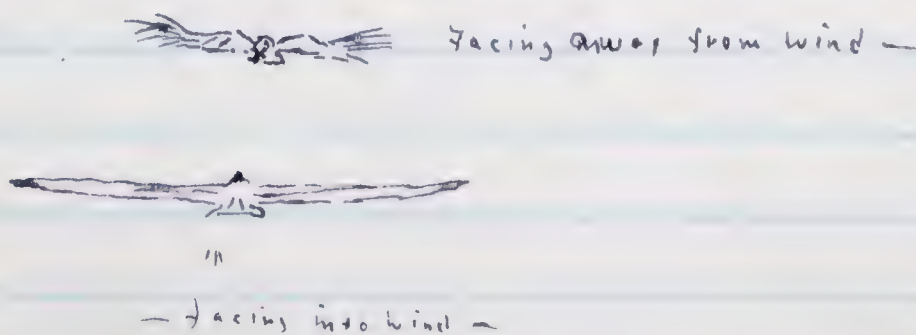
well above the high points that jut out above the east side of the San Juan Valley at this point. A brisk west wind was blowing. This Condor remained above this area for some time loafing on the wind, drifting up and down the valley, apparently effortless, and remaining quite high. At 4:10 p.m., after taking my ~~glasses~~^{binoculars} down to clean them, I was unable to relocate the Condor.

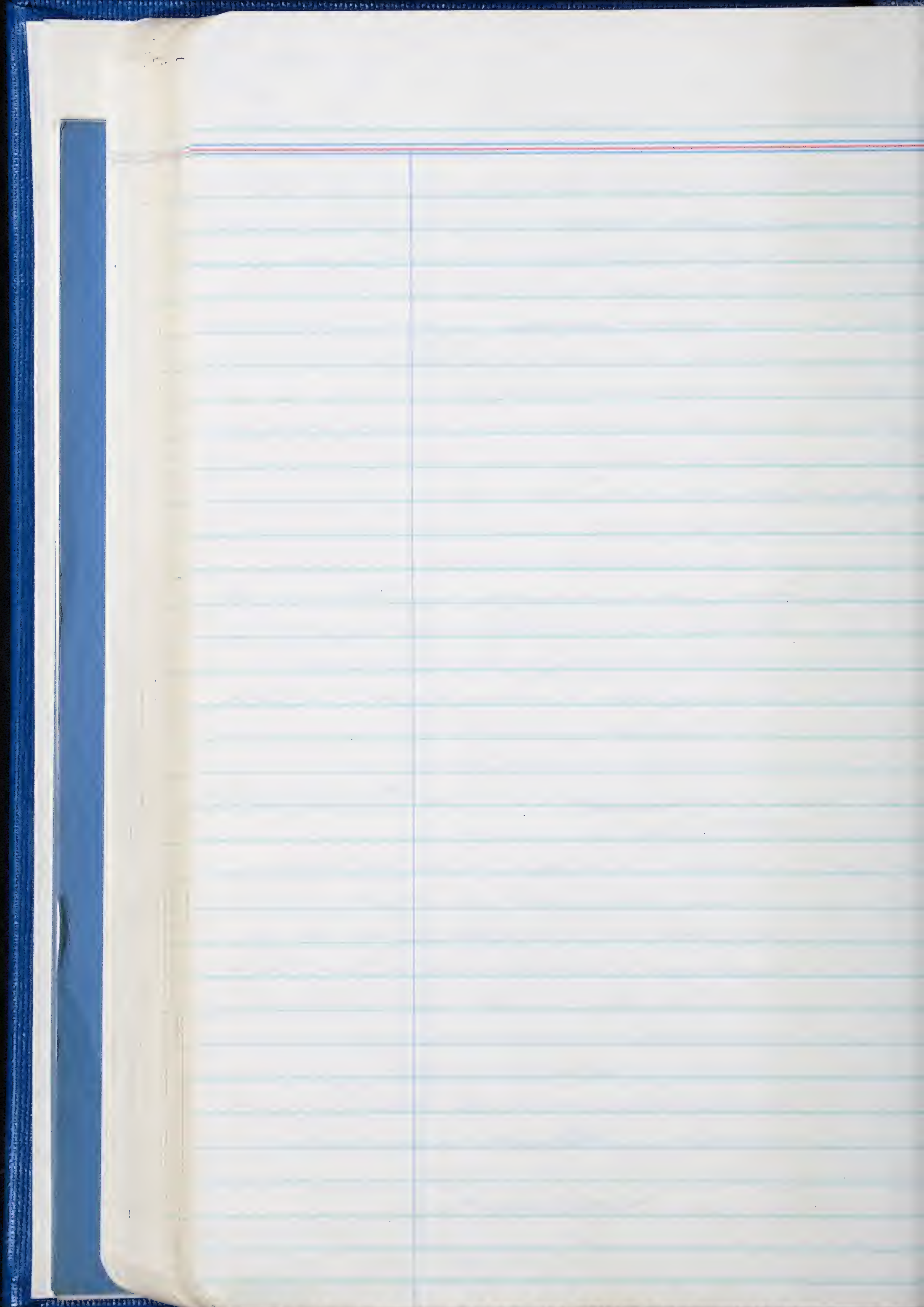
When this Condor was loafing on the air currents above me I could make out ripples that would pass from the tip of one wing and continue across to the tip of the other wing, much as does the ripple pass along a sheet that is being blown by the wind when on a clothesline. As this ripple commences on the leading ~~tip~~ wing tip, for this usually occurs when the bird is quartering, or at a right angle to the wind, the leading wingtip will flex and dip down allowing the rippling feature to continue on across both wings. The following drawing gives some idea of this feature of Condor flight.



Also as a condor loafs on good wind currents, if heading into the wind the outer primaries will be well grouped together and the wing appear pointed. When the Condor is moving slowly with the wind the outer primaries will be fully flexed and the wing pulled in somewhat giving the appearance of a very ragged-tattered bird hanging in the air as if suspended from a string, or the like.

The following drawing will give some indication of this type of flight.





I drove to the Cholame Ranch flats at 11:00 A.M., and on to the entrance to Headquarters. Many cattle were along the road. Hundreds of calves, of all ages, were in the Kerr Grade field and had just been branded, marked - castrated and vaccinated within the last few weeks, and some within the last few days. Several of the large bull calves that had just been castrated were still stiff and sore. I noticed a ~~one animal~~ ^{cow} that had died recently with its legs sticking up in the air, near the roadway, going from the foot of Kerr grade to the Gene Rambo Ranch. Driving back to the Kerr grade, and west on the Gene Rambo road, I went to, and investigated, what had been feeding on this carcass. Still well bloated with gas it looked to have been dead about three days. Feathers and down from Turkey Buzzards ~~was~~ ^{were} scattered about this carcass, and some feeding had been done, but probably by Buzzards. Driving to foot of Kerr grade I took up a watch for large flying birds. Several Buzzards came by, usually heading in the direction of the dead carcass but some just wandering about.

don't adult

at 1:45 P.M. an adult condor passed slowly over me coming from the southeast, drifted out over the area where the dead clutter was near Rambo Road and then turned and very slowly sailed northeastward to a point above the East Valley edge about two miles below the Cholame Rancho Headquarters. a light North wind was blowing. This condor coasted about on this wind, above this spot ~~until~~ ^{until}

found

1:55 P.M., when it let itself down to the carcass of a dead calf that lay near the east bank of the riverbed. Let itself down is the proper term to use in describing how a condor loses altitude on a calm day when the air currents are good. Unlike a Buzzard that dashes back and forth banking and turning as it drops from a high altitude, the condor -

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

2 July 1963

by comparison, appears to float downward as if suspended on a string, and being gently lowered from above. The wings remain the same as is the case in soaring flight - there is no sign of ~~unevenness~~ ^{unevenness}, or jerking down, and slowing up and then going faster; the descent is ~~smooth~~ ^{smooth} and graceful to the very moment the bird touches the ground. very much like a parachute drop.

after alighting on the ground about 200 feet from where the dead calf was situated with several Buzzards feeding about it, this condor stood for two minutes and seemed to be looking things over. It then hobbled towards the calf carcass in a ambling, half running, gait until it came to a patch of green weeds that grew between it and the calf carcass. The Condor then stood still for a minute seemingly to contemplate how to get through the thick weeds. It then raised its wings, gave a high and sailed the 30 or 40 feet necessary to get past green weeds. ~~It~~ The Condor was ~~now~~ on the top of the sloping bank and looking down at the dead calf and the several Buzzards milling around it. The Condor now, after standing on the bank for 30 or 40 seconds, walked down the sloping bank and to the calf carcass, scattering the Buzzards some 10 or 15 feet away as it did so.

Not being able to see well from my vantage point over one mile away across the valley, I drove the pickup on the Kern grade road to the Oiled road then off on the road going East Towards Hancock Ranch to where I was in the creek-bed and about one-half mile Southeast of the feeding Condor. Being down low in the valley heat waves made observing the condor feeding rather difficult so I kept watch on the creek bank to see when the bird finished feeding and would leave the area.

At 2:20 p.m. the condor walked up on the bank and over

California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 July 1963

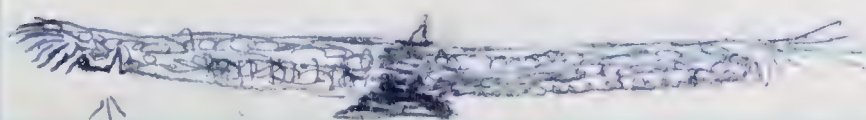
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around the green weeds to a grassy knoll about 100 feet from where it had fed. It stood here for some time until a calf walked towards it when this Condor hopped into the air and flew about 200 feet to a low knoll to the east. Here it stood and appeared to be rubbing its head and neck in the grass, then stood still for two or three minutes. At 2:30 p.m. this Condor ducked its head, opened its wings, hopped two or three times as it pumped its wings and was airborne. After leaving the ground it pumped 4 or 5 more times, then commenced to sail when not over 60 or 70 feet above the ground, and with no more pumping, was soon high above the area.

Turning Northeast this Condor went into a moderate flex glide and headed Northeast - flying slowly and very smoothly. At 2:45 this Condor discontinued this glide and circled to gain more altitude. During this circling I lost sight of the bird and could not relocate it. Just prior to stopping its long glide to circle it had turned its course somewhat to the North-West.

On examining the calf carcass, on which the Condor fed, I found no break in the skin anywhere. No sign of bloating was evident - the flank was slack and the area about the anus was loose and flabby and the opening of the anus itself appeared enlarged, and opened, with seven inches of a small ~~intestine~~ intestine hanging out of the anus. Tracks gave every indication that most, if not all, the feeding, that had been done on this carcass, had been accomplished through the anus.

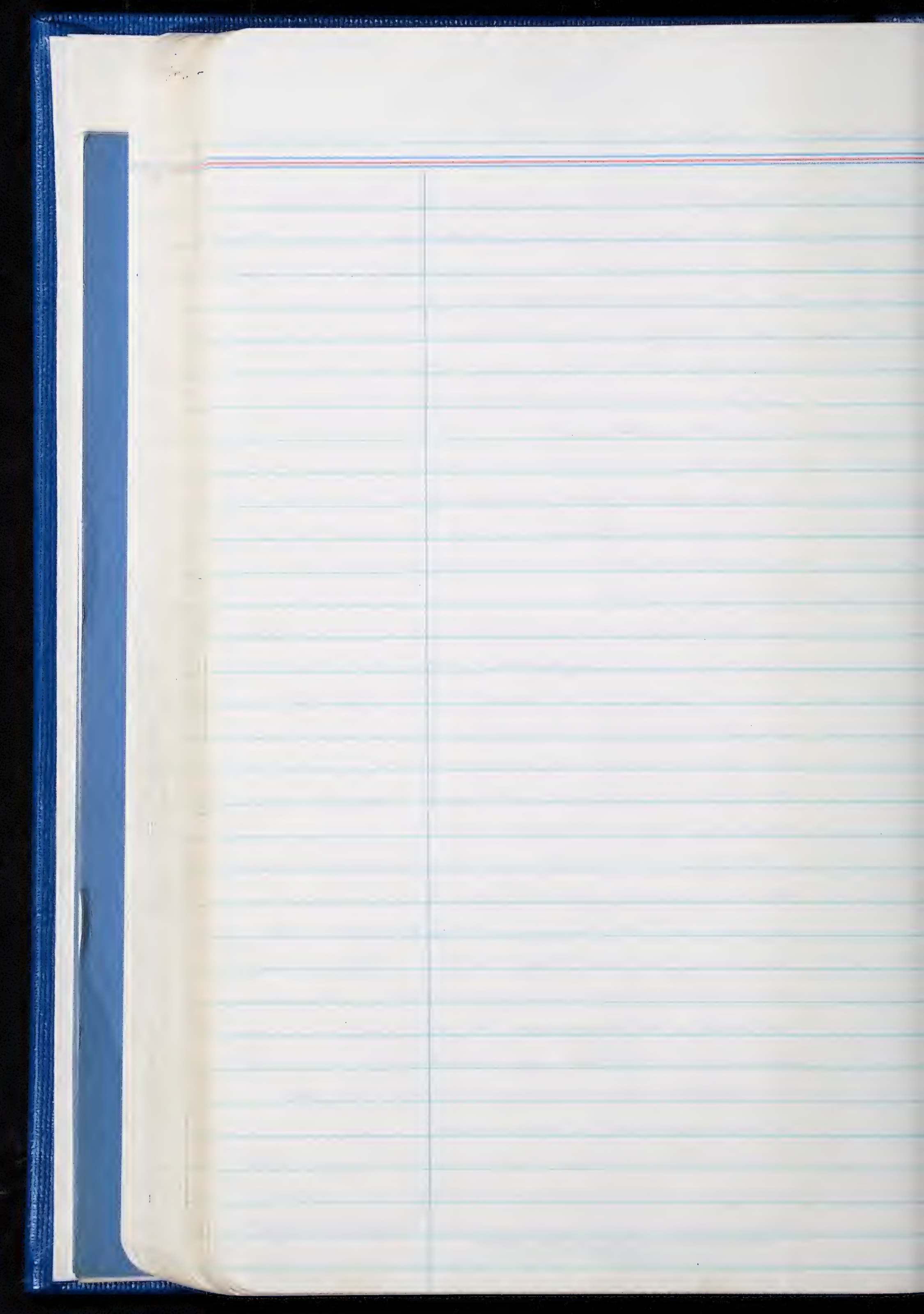
The only flaw in this Condor's plumage was one secondary feather missing from the left wing about 4/5th inch from the outside -



Left wing going away -



Left wing coming towards



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Gladys McMillan and I left home at 7:30 A.M., traveling to Bakersfield via Blackwells Corner and Buttonwillow. Visited office of U.S. Department of the Interior. Riley Patterson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Predator Control official, whose office is in U.S. Department of the Interior office, was not in nor did they think he would be back until after the holidays. I then went to U.S. Forest Service office in Haberfeldt Building, where Opal Grimes, Official Secretary in this office introduced me to Ranger James Toland who heads the Greenhorn Division of the Sequoia National Forest.

The following statements were made to me by Ranger Toland and are of interest to Condor preservation.

NO. 1 - Few if any sheep now summer on the Greenhorn Division of the Sequoia National Park.

NO. 2 - Sheep or cattle that die on the Sequoia National Forest lands are only required to be removed 300 feet from running water, or springs, and the same is true of public roads.

Otherwise these dead carcasses are left as Condor food. In all other National Forests, excepting possibly the Las Padres National Forest, all dead animals are required to be buried or burned.

NO. 3 - Ranger Toland said that last winter a photographer from the Los Angeles area telephoned him for permission to go into the Forest and take motion pictures of Condor in their natural habitat. Mr. Toland told him that he knew of no Condor on Breckenridge Mountain and also that he doubted any natural habitat of Condor could be in a given area in Sequoia National Forest.

NO. 4 - No sightings of Condor had come in this year from any lookout personnel of the Greenhorn Division of Sequoia Nat. Forest.

Both Ranger Toland and his secretary Opal Grimes ^{seemed} ~~was~~ very interested in Condor and asked to be kept posted on any new material we might find that would not be classified as secret information.

Tehachapi

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food

We drove to Tehachapi and out to the foothills south of the Town where I talked to the same two shepherds who we camped in this same place on June 15th 1963. They had seen no large birds about since last seeing us, even though a few sheep died and many bultre (Buzzards) had come to feed as well as h. I left word with these fellows to be on the lookout for Condor and showed them photographs of Condor in the hopes this might help them in ~~identifying~~ ^{identifying} one should it come to a sheep carcass near them. When looking at the photograph of Condor, one of the shepherds said he had seen two birds like this eating on a dead sheep that had died in the alfalfa last winter in the Rosmond area of Antelope Valley - Kern County, Calif. This shepherd said that they ~~lost~~ ^{lost} few sheep this time of year, but that in the winter, on alfalfa - Mucha ~~mucho~~

food

oveja muerto (many dead sheep). I asked if some nights ten sheep die, he answered that some nights many more than ten sheep die. I photographed these ~~two~~ two Basque spaniards, one of which had been here one year, the other had been in America 8 months.

We drove to the camp of another Basque Shepherd who understands Spanish. I had trouble making him understand my mission but he finally caught on and will be on the lookout for Condor.

We then drove to the Kern County Fire Control Station at Keene, on highway 466 about 10 miles west of Tehachapi where I talked with G.B. Harris of Tehachapi who is stationed at the Keene fire control camp. He had seen no Condor for several years but gave me the names of Terry McCarthy and his wife Phyllis, who live on the Bealville Cutoff to Caliente, and who know Condor and see them. He also gave me the name of Harry Wirth lives in Caliente and has been observing wildlife in these parts for 60 years.

we then drove to the ^{McCarthy} ~~McCarthy~~ Ranch and found Terry-

Collected

california condor

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McCarthy ~~McCarthy~~ asleep in his livingroom, and upon being awakened by his grandson, gave me much information on condor.

First he thought that if I ~~really~~ ^{really} wanted to see condor I should go to Cummings valley for in years gone by he always saw one or two condor circling above Cummings valley. Mrs. McCarthy was born and grew up in Cummings valley and when he used to go counting hot, from Caliente where he still lives, he always saw condor in Cummings valley.

Mr. McCarthy said that about ~~three~~ ^{thirty} years ago, a cow died in a farming field Northeast of his house. Condor came to feed on this dead cow in such numbers that they bent the limbs of the Oak tree that grew near where the dead cow was and in which tree the condor gathered before and after feeding on this carcass. He mentioned that several of the condor that fed on this carcass had some difficulty getting into the air and that only by ~~running~~ ^{running} and flapping the wings, a great distance, did they become ~~air-borne~~ ^{air-borne}.

Mr. McCarthy thought condor returned to his area about the first week in June each year, for he drives a school-bus from Caliente to Bakersfield and it is usually during the last week of school that in former years he would commence to see condor - school ends about the end of the first full week in June. He also said he thinks the condor come past his place heading Southward, flying high and seem to come from the Northeast. He therefore thought them to be coming from the Tehachapi area.

Mr. McCarthy had never heard of a condor being shot or of anyone finding one dead. He said that in former years ground squirrels were very plentiful throughout the Sierra Nevada foothills and when Thallium and 1080 poisons were first used they killed many thousands of squirrels in the early summer months and that condor always came to feed on these dead squirrels each year. He thought that many people first started seeing condor when this squirrel poisoning was first promoted on a wide scale in his area -

clor -

mel Mason
said

Caliente

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Eben McMillan

3 July 1963

Mr. McCarthy thought that Condor were probably always in his area but were never noticed until about 30 years ago when the squirrels were first poisoned on a county-wide basis. He thought people became conscious of seeing Condor at this time.

Mr. McCarthy stated that in his youth - 50 to 60 years ago, many sheep were in the Sierra foothills. Now he says there are but a few sheep left anywhere in this section.

Condor Sanctuary

Mr. McCarthy also told of a Mr. Arthur Crites who has property in the Tehachapi area and who also had lease holding for oil in the Sespe and Hopper Canyons of Ventura County when the U.S. Forest Service was instituting the program to set aside the areas now known as the Condor Preserve or Sanctuary. It was at this time, and in opposition to the setting aside of these areas, that Mr. Arthur Crites came and attended meetings in Caliente trying to recruit supporters ⁱⁿ a move to oppose the setting aside of the Condor Sanctuary. In Ventura County, Mr. McCarthy said that support for the preservation of Condor and the setting aside of the Sanctuary was being promoted on the grounds that Condor were about extinct and that only 8 or 10 birds still remained. It was in opposition to this claim, and as a means to show that there were all sorts of Condor remaining, that this Mr. Crites used the ~~the~~ observation of Mr. McCarthy when he saw the great number of Condor, bending down the limbs of the Oak trees in the flats Northeast of his house, and mentioned before in these notes. On direct questioning Mr. McCarthy would not put a random figure on the number of Condor he thought were gathered together near his place at that time.

We stopped in the town of ~~Caliente~~ Caliente and talked with Henry Lush, an old timer of the Caliente area who said he had not seen Condor for several years. He advised us to go to Walker basin if I wanted to see Condor. He used

Breckenridge

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Condor

Food

See condor there when he worked on the County roads many years ago. Mr. Wirth said the Condor used to come into the field in Walker's basin after mice or rats, for he said he used to see them out in the meadows pecking around at things on the ground that he thought to be mice or rats.

We then drove to near top of Breckenridge Mountain where we camped for the night in an improved forest camp at about the 6800 foot level. It was cool in the evening and cold ~~down~~ during the night.

here



a cold north wind was blowing as we arrived at the U.S. Forest Service lookout on Breckenridge Mountain by 8:15 A.M. The temperature had dipped to 38 degrees at this station last night we were told by Mr. Morrison, who with his wife attends to the Lookout as well as Patrols the Forest Camps and roads in the Mt. Breckenridge area.

Neither Mr. or Mrs. Morrison had seen any large birds on Breckenridge Mountain. Mr. Morrison had seen Buzzards when patrolling in the valleys below. They were both interested in Condor and were hoping to see some but it is doubtful if they will know the difference between Condor and Eagles, or Buzzards, for that matter. The only birds they professed to know were quail and dove. I showed them photographs of Condor, and pointed out the identifying features to look for. They had been on the mountain for 6 weeks and ~~still~~ ^{still} knew very little of the geography, except the mountain peaks close-by.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Morrison professed a keen interest in wildlife and on my suggestion will put out a feeding and watering station near their lookout tower.

Two different television broadcasting stations have sizable developments at the top of Breckenridge Mountain. Electricity has been brought in from the Walker Basin side and a year-around road is maintained to the top - Some people who tend the T.V. equipment reside in a sizable house near one of the complete broadcasting and receiving stations that is located about 4 mile west of the Forest Service Lookout. Considerable vehicular traffic uses this road both day and night.

on ~~the~~ the west slope of Breckenridge Mountain a sizable development has been in progress for many years. Four or five sections of land about ⁵⁰⁰⁰ ~~1600~~ ft. level has ~~been~~ been subdivided and sold to people who have built weekend homes here. An old ~~road~~ road comes up from Bakerfield to this point. Just what disturbance this

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settlement would present to condor would be difficult to assess. We know it couldn't help them in any way.

Continuing on down the west side Breckenridge road we passed out of the pine timber and into Oak-chaparral country. A man by name of Si- was working on a cattle trough. Stopped and asked about condor - He knew condor and he had not seen condor for many years. In former years said these birds used to come to a little valley across the mountain to the north of Walker Basin and feed on mice and kangaroo rats that frequented this meadow.

Kangaroo Rats
food

This man Si. used his arm and hand to show how the condor would snap up the rats. I am wondering if this observation of this man Si. did not have something to do with the squirrel poisoning operations that were in operation probably about that time. Si. thought condor came into the Breckenridge mountain area about the first of August. Si. had not heard of, nor seen a dead condor. He thinks they are now about all gone.

Continuing on down this Breckenridge road we went out the Oak and chaparral association into an open grassland made up of high ridges and deep canyons. This is a sheep country and their marks can ~~be~~ be seen everywhere. Forage still remains on these hills. It is a place we will like to watch in early spring when the sheep return.

Following this Breckenridge road on west we came to a road that would take us down to the Kern River highway until coming out at the mouth of Kern River where it leaves the mountains. We then drove up Kern River - crossed to west side of Isabella Lake - took ~~highway~~ the road from Wofford heights up over Greenhorn summit and down to Fulton Guard Station in the Fulton Creek drainage of Poso Creek. Here we met Mr. and Mrs. Hal Seyden. He is a timber cruiser for the Forest Service and when he does not now know condor.

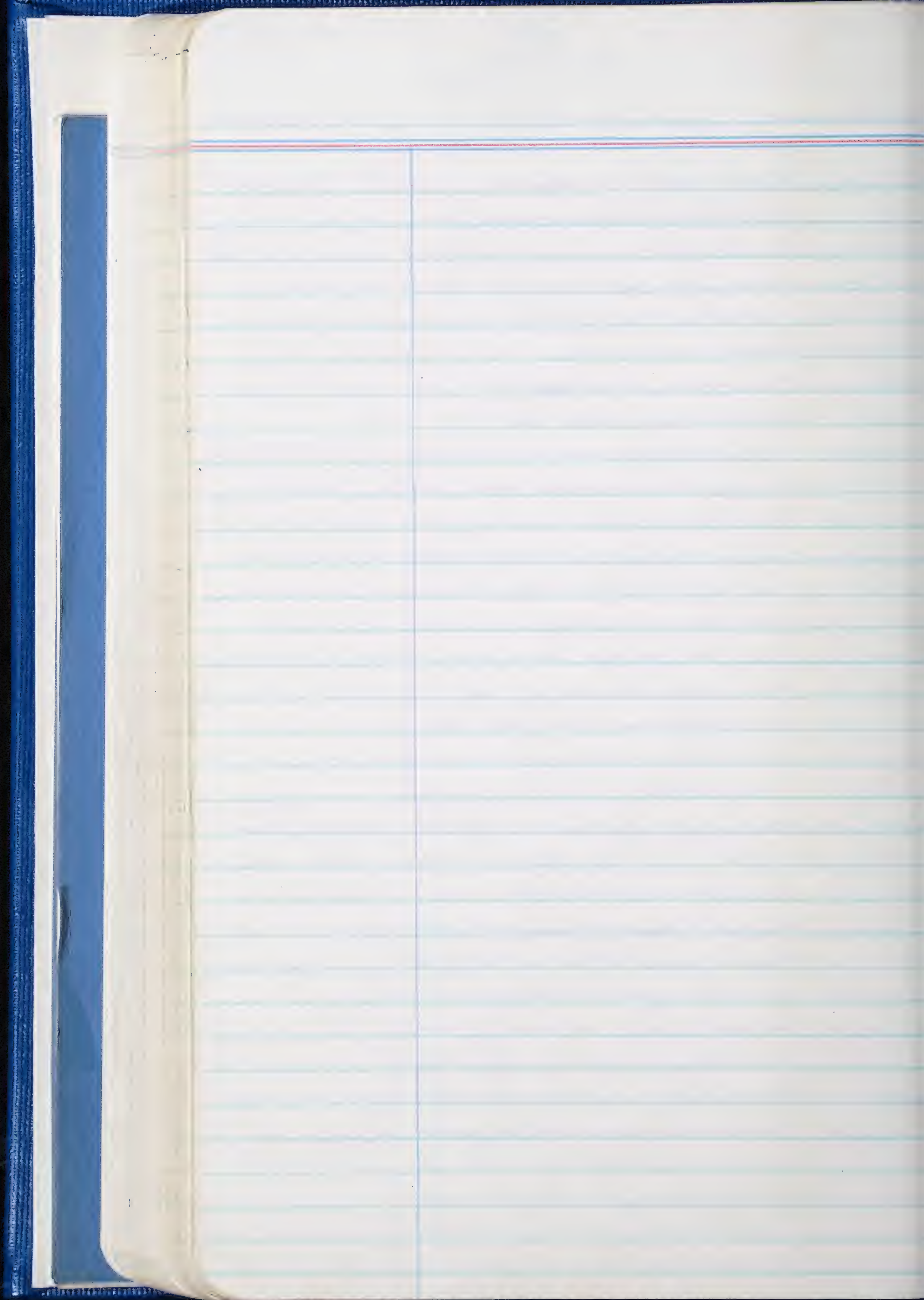
and his wife are very interested and would like to know more about all birds. Mr. Seydon will keep his eye open for Condor signs and also report to us anything he hears relative to Condor in that ^{area} ~~area~~. He also told me that Helen King, an elderly lady who has been on Oak Flat Lookout for at least 10 summers, told him of seeing 50 plus Condor in that area in 1961. He also told me of learning of Condors in the 8th and ~~the~~ 9th grades in school in Modoc County where he attended school.

I met Roy Stephensen and Robt. Carver at the Kern County Fire Control Station in Glennville who reported not having seen Condor this year. Mr. Carver lives near Granite Station and was one of the men who carried the bodies out to an ambulance, from the airplane wreck in which the Common Loon was involved, last spring. He also told me, Mr. Carver that is, that the Condor that had been held captive in Bakersfield at the home of State Game Warden Mr. Shackelford, was found near his home and that it had been banded before it was taken into Bakersfield. Carver thought it had a broken leg, but he was not sure. He stated that a dead ^{carver} cow was near where this Condor had been captured. ~~Carver~~ also stated that Judge ~~Stanton~~ Stockton of Bakersfield had fed rabbits to this Condor and that the Condor had eaten the rabbits. Could it be that this Condor - a young bird, had become gorged with food and became calmed and thought to be sick and captured while it could have managed to survive if left alone?

Telephoned Marion Vincent from Woody. Mr. Vincent told me of seeing two Condor over his home on June 13, 1963. Mr. Vincent has never seen Condor in the mountains where they run their cattle in the summertime.

Home at 7:30 p.m.

Condor -



CALIFORNIA CONDOR

EBEN McMillan

6 JULY 1963

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I was on the Cholame flats at 8:30 A.M. Turkey Buzzards were just coming off the roosts of dead cottonwood trees that grow in the Cholame creekbed one half mile southeast of the Cholame Ranch Headquarters. These Buzzards were all heading out southeastward. The air was calm and flying conditions seemed good for the Buzzards were sailing about with effortless ease, doing very little circling to get elevation and moving very easily. I took up a watch on the rock outcropping to the east of Hancock Ranch Road, remaining there until 10:45 A.M. Not seeing any Buzzards in this area, although lots of Ravens were along the stream that comes from the Canyon to the North, I returned to the area near the Ranch Headquarters. Stopping at the roadside, in the creek bottom, one ~~mile~~ mile southeast of Headquarters buildings. I now saw several Buzzards circling the valley and some were alighting and feeding on the Bull Calf carcass on which a Condor had fed last Tuesday.

Found
recorded before

Condor

At 11:40 A.M. two Condors were seen circling above the old maple house on the Gene Rambo Ranch. When first seen both Condors were circling and gaining altitude. After gaining moderate altitude one Condor glided out northeastward slowly to be followed closely by the other Condor. Both birds drifted across the valley and circled again about one mile north of Cholame Ranch Headquarters. When circling here I could make out that one Condor was quite ragged in plumage while the other was in very good plumage. Both were in adult plumage.

Breaking from this circling both Condors headed east and were lost from sight after having glided for five minutes due east. When last seen both Condors were still together. About 30 seconds after having lost sight of the Condors far out above the Wallace place I picked up an object that could have been one of these Condors, for it was in the same general area the Condors were last seen. It was traveling northwestward fast.

Do Condors use an angled route to go from Cholame flats to Castle Mountain? To Wallace place then double back to Castle Mountain? Are Condors nesting in Castle Mountain at the present time?

California Condor

Eben Merrillan

6 July 1963

At a wedding ceremony in Shandon tonight - I asked Gene Bingeman, who ranches on the Carissa plains near the Painted Rock, if he had ever seen Condor there or later. He said he was not sure that a Condor would be recognized should it fly close to him for, on an occasion, birds were pointed out to him that were supposed to have been Condors for they had white under the wings. Mr. Bingeman said he was somewhat disillusioned at seeing such a small bird - he had supposed Condor to be great big birds. The birds he was shown were no larger than Buzzards, he said.

This information is entered to show that some people mistake ~~the~~ other birds ~~as~~ for Condor. On the Carissa plains, on some years, large concentrations of Swainson's Hawk pass through this area. In that the light color phase of Swainson's Hawk will show light and dark when in flight, it is ^{likely} ~~likely~~ these birds are being mistaken for Condor.

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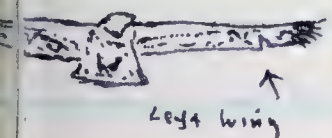
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Gregory Mcmillan and I drove to Cholame flats at 10:30 A.M.. Saw only a few Buzzards as we drove from highway to Cholame Ranch Headquarters where we procured permission from Howard Jack to drag the carcass of a calf, that had been hit and killed by an automobile recently, up into one of the draws on the west side of the Cholame flats so that we could observe any condor that might come to feed on the carcass. Mr. Jack said our so doing would be ^{all right} ~~all right~~ and that he would be most pleased to help out in a study of the Condor in any way that he could.

Gregory and I then drove out the entrance lane to the Ranch Headquarters and as we reached the County Road we saw, at 11:05 A.M., an adult condor circling high above the home building of Gene Rambo that sets about one mile due west of the Cholame Ranch Headquarters. We stopped the pickup and I with the spotting scope and Greg with the binoculars put this Condor under observation. As it wheeled about we were sure that a secondary feather was missing from the left wing about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way out on the wing. As we were watching this Condor it circled, gaining more altitude, then glided out to the south where it joined another Condor that was so far away that its feather pattern could not be made out, but it was possible to identify it as an adult bird.

Both of these condor then drifted northward more or less following the ridge to the west of the Cholame flats. They would stop and circle every few minutes then proceed on northward. When over a point that would be out to our northwest about three miles, both Condor turned west and flew in this direction for about five ~~ten~~ minutes then swung southwest and dropped from our view behind the ridge to our west. Both birds were a great distance from us when they disappeared from our view, being minute specks in the glasses, at 11:35 A.M.

We then hauled the dead calf up into a draw out of sight from the roadway and fashioned a crude blind of dead oak limbs —



Left wing

2

condor adult

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Eben McMillan

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a distance of about 100 yards from the calf carcass in the hopes of getting some feeding observations of Condor as well as a photograph or several should the opportunity permit.

Returning home for lunch at 1:30 P.M. we saw no sign of Condor.

I drove back to Cholame flats and the calf carcass at 3:30 P.M. several Buzzards were flying about in the general vicinity of the calf carcass but none had alighted to feed. At 4:00 P.M. one Buzzard dropped down near the calf carcass, walked to it and commenced feeding. Immediately other Buzzards dropped in so that in the matter of another ^{Minute} ~~minute~~ Twenty Buzzards were crowded about the carcass fighting and feeding. Not wanting the Buzzards to consume all the calf I drove up and disturbed them in the hopes they would return in the morning and perhaps encourage the Condor to come in and feed.

I fixed the blind up some more. Took several black and white photographs of cattle feeding on Cholame flats and returned home by 7:00 P.M..

I was in the blind on Cholame flats by 7:45 A.M., leaving the pickup under an Oak Tree one Quarter mile to the southeast. One Buzzard circled my blind at 8:20 A.M. A Red-Shafted Flicker walked about on top of the blind Canvas cover at 8:25 A.M. Several Buzzards came in and ^{alighted} on the ground ten feet above the calf carcass. These Buzzards remained here for some minutes, stretching and sunning their wings, also fighting among themselves. One ~~Buzzard~~ ^{Buzzard} flew ten feet and landed on the calf carcass. Other Buzzards walked to within two feet of the carcass. But all Buzzards seemed nervous and would jump and quickly open their wings, at times, as though they thought the calf carcass would move and catch them. Soon all the Buzzards flew away and circled close to the ground above me as though to get a look under the Canvas to see what was there.

During the remainder of the morning and up until 2:30 P.M., Buzzards came by and flew low over the carcass and on several occasions one or two Buzzards would land on the ground above the calf carcass or alight in the Oak tree that stood 30 feet East of the carcass, but none remained in the area any length of time nor did they attempt to feed on the carcass.

At 2:30 I came out of the blind, scaring one Buzzard that was standing on the ground under the Oak near the carcass, but no other large birds were to be seen about the area. I brought the pickup from where it was hidden and loaded the blind Canvas and all equipment, then drove 1/4 mile Southeast and parked under an Oak after first having towed the calf carcass about 300 yards North, and out on a flat open area.

At 2:40 P.M. several Buzzards were flying above the area where the carcass lay and two Ravens were diving ~~at~~ and harassing a young Golden Eagle that circled high above. Two adult Golden Eagle came from the West and dove at the

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Eben McMillan

July 8, 1963

Young Eagle causing it to leave the area to the eastward. Both adult Eagles returned to the west after chasing the young bird for some distance to the east.

The Ravens when diving at the young Eagle would attempt to hit the outer tip of its wing as they passed by from above. The young Eagle paid little heed to the Ravens but did show concern and made effort to get away when the adult Eagles dove on it. A Swainson's hawk also made several long dives at the young Golden Eagle.

Margaret Brown

With no activity about the carcass at 3:00 p.m. I left the area and drove to Parkfield where Sam Etter told me that he had never seen a live Condor but that he had seen a dead one once. Upon being questioned, it developed that Sam Etter had been married by relatives of his, by the name of Brown, who lived near Granite Station in Kern County, and that when visiting Mrs. Brown, who is now a widow, he had seen the carcass of a Condor in a barn on the Brown place that had been picked up in the hills and brought in and thrown on some chicken-wire that was stretched across the hay-mow of this barn. I asked Sam Etter would it be possible that this Condor carcass could still be there in the barn and he said that it probably was. I will be there the day after tomorrow.

I drove to the Floyd Taylor Ranch on Turkey Flat and found Bob Taylor who saw two birds about a month ago that he thought were Condor, but after looking at my photograph of Condor he changed his mind. From his description of the two birds he saw I feel sure they were young Golden Eagles. Bob Taylor said it would be ^{all right} ~~all right~~ if I should use their road to go on top of Castle Mountain to see if Condor were roosting there.

I stopped at Reg Freeman's Hancock Ranch. Reg told me he saw two young Condor some three weeks ago -

?
Condor - 9
Not seen -

California Condor

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in the part of his ranch that drops over the ridge into the Dark Horse country. Reg said these Condor were not big, stretching his arms out to full width to show the spread of their wings, and that he saw white under the wings. His thinking was that they had to be young Condor for they were not as large as the Condor he had seen several years ago on the Buckhorn Ranch that is five or six miles southeast of the Beartop Rocks area. Mr. Freeman will be on the lookout for Condor.

It was 6:15 Am. when I drove down into the Cholame flats from the Reg Freeman Ranch and stopping to put the scope on the dead calf carcass that was directly across the valley from me I would make out several birds feeding on the carcass. I therefore drove up the valley and crossed over to the county road at the Irrigation Camp, taking this county road on down to a point opposite the carcass I stopped and put the scope on the birds that were then feeding there. Two adult Condor and four Turkey Buzzards were about the carcass. This was at 6:25 Am.

One of the Condor at the carcass seemed to have been well filled up already for it only pulled at the meat on occasion. The other Condor was intent on feeding and pulled and tugged at the carcass that showed signs of having been mostly devoured. The Condor that was not so hungry walked about the carcass, making intimidating and menacing advances towards the Buzzards that would run from the Condor when it moved towards them.

When both Condor had ~~finished~~ ^{finished} feeding, the one that had not been feeding ~~opened~~ ^{first} opened its wings and immediately took into the air and flew about 200 feet to a hillside where both spent sometime rubbing their necks on the ground.

California Condor

Eben Bachman

8 July 1963

Neck cleaning

IN this neck cleaning process condor keep the legs straight but bending the body forward and downward while tail points upward. They run the neck and head about on the ground. This was done several times by each of these condors. Between neck cleaning efforts, the condor that had flown from the ~~carcass~~ ^{first} would hurriedly trot on up the hill several feet to be soon followed by the other condor. They give the impression of being very agile on their legs for such large birds. While the neck-cleaning and walking or trotting was going on the ~~breast~~ ^{crop} of each bird showed reddish where the feathers were parted in the front. This, due, I think, to the full crop.

One of the condors appeared to be the leader while the other, the one that had fed last, was the follower. Both condors gave the impression of being very devoted and attached as well as considerate of one another. Much more so than is the case with most birds.

At 6:47 p.m. one condor opened its wings and easily became airborne, soon to be followed by the other. Much pumping of the wings took place as they first flew low over the foothills heading Northwest. After flying on for about 1/4 mile both birds commenced circling but still doing much pumping or flapping of the wings and drifting on to the Northwest. Arriving at a point approximately above the old house and barn on the Gene Rambo Ranch, the condors were able to get some altitude, which they maintained, while they drifted westward. At 6:55 p.m. both condors, still circling, lost altitude and lowered into the canyon about 1/2 mile west of the Gene Rambo home building.

Four Buzzards were still feeding on the Calf Carcass at 7:00 p.m. as I left the area.

Drove to ~~near~~ Gene Rambo Ranch by 8:30 A.M., Gene and his boy were unloading hay. He said he had seen no condor for several months. I told him that I had seen two condor go into the canyon back of his home last evening. He seemed quite surprised for he said they were Roping steers at 7:00 P.M. yesterday evening and should have observed any Condor that were within sight of his Roping arena. The Two Condor. were over the Roping arena at 6:50 last evening.

Condor adult I drove to a hilltop $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southwest of the Gene Rambo home and with the aid of B+L spotting scope soon picked out two adult Condor roosting in a Digger pine Tree on the ridge above Rambos Tin Hay barn in Marble Canyon and about one mile west of where I sat. The time was 9:05^{AM} when the birds were first seen. Both were preening and stretching. The morning was warm. At 9:40 A.M. the top bird sat down on the limb on which it perched. As it sat down the tail was held high briefly, as if to maintain balance, then the tail and wings drooped as this bird continued sitting down, see diagram below—



sitting posture

Perch under breast bone

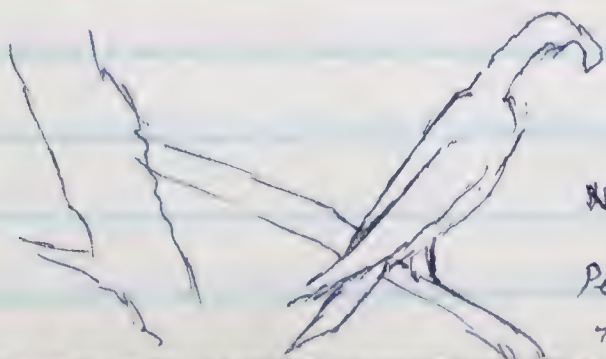
Tail and wings drooping

and far back of perching

limb of tree. center of

Condor's weight well forward.

At 9:45 A.M. the sitting condor stood up and stretched, then reeled in normal roosting posture— See diagram below—



Normal Roosting posture—

Perhaps even more perpendicular with the body than this—

California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 July 1963

1 Condor adult

At 9:55 A.M. I watched both adult condor leave the roost tree to be joined immediately by a third adult condor that apparently was roosting in another nearby tree for it joined the two condor I had been watching immediately after they had left the roost tree. All three condor circled above the roost area. After gaining moderate altitude all three condor glided eastward. I quickly drove to valley floor and down Cholame flats on County Road to the general area where Kerr grade road intersects Cholame Valley Road at which place I could make out three condor circling above the County Road in the direction of Cholame. I continued on towards Cholame for one mile and was now under the three circling condor. Stopping I now took photographs of the three condor as they circled above and a bit to the west, in which direction they were now slowly drifting as they circled. ~~On~~ On two different occasions I had to put my camera away and watch, once ^{AN} ~~an~~ automobile with two women passed by on the road, with no indication they had seen the three condor circling about 1/4 mile above the road, at this point, or a truck load of men who appeared interested in what I was doing, but did not see the condor either. All three condor continued circling and drifting northwestward until over the Kerr Grade area about one mile from where I was parked at the roadside. At this time one of the three condor commenced chasing one of the other condor, following it downward in spiraling dives. The condor that was being chased remained over the Kerr Grade area while the remaining two condor drifted northward and circled over Gene Rambo barn and Corals briefly then headed back towards where I was, following the ridge on west side of Cholame Valley as I came.

At this point, two cowboys from the Cholame Ranch drove

- Continued -

California Condor.

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up to where I was parked and chatted with me briefly. When they continued on I could not relocate the two Condor that had drifted Northwestward and were returning when the Cowboys interfered with my observation. I could still see the one Condor that had remained circling above the area where four Buzzards were now feeding on the Calf Carcass. I had worked with Yesterday, ^{that} still remained. This Condor was now at a great height. It soon went ~~into~~ into a flex-glide and drifted out Eastward and when last seen was circling three or four miles to the Eastward, it now being about 11:20 A.M.

I drove to ridge west of Maule Canyon and hiking down to the tree where the two Condor had spent the night, I photographed this tree and picked up one small Condor feather, on the ground, under this tree. No other feathers or down was in evidence, nor was there any sign of excrement on the tree limbs or on the ground below. I also photographed the general Roosting area in Maule Canyon.

At 2:50 P.M. I returned to the Cholame flats and upon approaching the area where the Calf Carcass was left Yesterday, I saw one Condor standing back about 10 feet from the Calf Carcass while four Buzzards picked on the Calf remains. As I stopped the pickup at the roadside, from whence the Calf Carcass was a good one-half mile away, the Condor gave the appearance of becoming nervous and soon flew the 200 feet and alighted on the same hillside as did the two Condor Yesterday evening that were feeding on this Calf Carcass then. This Condor stood still for some time glancing about and at 3:05 P.M. it launched into the air and soon was circling, gaining altitude fast. At 3:10 P.M. this Condor, from a very great height, went into a flex-glide that continued at least until it became so dim I could no longer follow it with the 20 Power Scope, in a due South direction that at the rate this bird was traveling would take it into the bear-trap rocks, 32 miles ~~to~~ South, in less than one hour of time.

Condor?

Same bird as
one of three -
seen earlier -

California Condor

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The Bear-trap rocks being 31 miles due south and 7 miles west of the Water Tank at the foot of Kerr grade from where this Condor launched its flex-glide. At no time during the great distance I followed this bird, did it break the glide it first started on, nor did it appear to lose any altitude. A gentle East wind was blowing. The afternoon was quite warm.

Ed. Gurrell, one of the cowboys of the Cholame Ranch that stopped to chat with me as I was observing the two Condor this morning, said he had seen no Condor on the Cholame flats, "since those were here two years ago". At the time he spoke these words one Condor was circling well within eyesight out to our southward.

The Condor last seen today and the one that went into the long flex-glide in the direction of the Bear-trap Rocks was in good plumage with the exception of having one full secondary feather that left a full gap in the left wing about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way out from the body; see diagram below.



Of the two other Condor seen today one was in good plumage - the other was a very ragged looking bird.

See below diagram



I drove to Granite Station, Kern County, by 9:30 A.M., stopping for information at the Grisdale Ranch that is located about two miles East of Granite Station. Mr. Grisdale has been in this area for the last forty years. During our early discussion's Mr. Grisdale told me he had not seen Condor for years and admitted not knowing much about birds or wildlife suggested that a talk to his daughter, Mrs. Mona ~~Carver~~ Carver who lives in a new home on the hill only 100 yards from where we stood talking. At 9:50 A.M. I saw one adult Condor circling east of the new ^{home of Mrs. Mona Carver} ~~Mona Carver home~~. It was soon joined by another adult Condor that came into view from the east and somewhat higher than the first Condor seen. ~~The~~ The lower, or first Condor, moved towards us and made several circles about 100 feet above Mrs. Mona Carver's new home before gliding out and downward to the west with the higher, or second sighted Condor, following somewhat later. Even at the close range this Condor came into, Mr. Grisdale still doubted that it was a Condor and questioned my identification of the birds. "Are you sure they ~~aren't~~ aren't Buzzards" was his quote. One of these Condor seemed in perfect plumage while the other Condor showed some serration along the outer, or trailing edge of the secondary wing feathers. Both Condor appeared to be searching the area, and in no hurry.

I drove to the Mona Carver house and made her acquaintance. She is a young lady who has done considerable bird banding in past years but said she did not renew her banders permits this year due to more pressing problems. She was surprised to hear I had seen Condor over her house a few moments before. She had not seen Condor for several years. Mrs. Carver had banded a Condor on 27 June 1960 —

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that had been found on the Stockton property only a mile or so distance north of her home. This Condor was supposed to have been found crippled on the Stockton property and had been captured and held there. Mrs. Carver thought this Condor had a broken wing and a dislocated hip. She said it smelled terribly (the Condor she banded it. Mrs. Carver thought it died the following week. The Stocktons are now on vacation. I will get more information from them when they return to Granite Station.

McBrown

dead Condor

Recorded before

I drove to the ranch home of Mrs. Margaret Brown that is located north of Granite Station about five miles. After meeting Mrs. Brown I stated what Sam Etter had told me of the dead Condor in her barn. She said it was still there and that she would gladly let me take it as a scientific specimen. Mrs. Brown did not have the exact date this Condor was found nor did she have any idea as to the date it came into her possession. She thought it about five years ago. I will endeavour to get the exact dates for me.

The following is Mrs. Brown's story regarding her understanding of the history of this Condor carcass.

Sometime, about five years ago, a Mrs. ^{Dorothy} ~~Alberty~~ Alberty of Woody, Calif. was helping poison squirrels on the property that is supervised by Carl West and is located about two miles west of Granite Station. One day, this Mrs. Alberty found the carcass of a dead Condor out to the southwest of the West home about 1/2 mile and informed Mr. West of its whereabouts. It was then taken to the West home where Mrs. Brown took possession of it after being told no one else wanted anything to do with it. Mrs. Brown took it to her home north of Granite Station and soaked the Condor carcass with water in order to get it clean. She said she saw yellow grain, the same that is used in poisoning squirrels fall from the

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- continued - P-122
Mrs. Brown

Condor, with the water, with which it was being washed. This water ran through a pen where ducks were kept. Mrs. Brown said that two of the young ducks in this pen soon died. She thought the grain must have been poisoned barley and had been eaten by the Condor before it died. Mrs. Brown then soaked the carcass of this Condor in order to relax the wings and feet so they could be stretched out from the bent position in which they were when she took possession of the Bird. The Condor Carcass was then placed on a length of chicken wire netting in a somewhat flying posture and allowed to dry. It was Mrs. Brown's idea to display this Condor to those who would come to see it in a somewhat flying form. The carcass was tacked to the chicken wire netting in several places with the back against the wire. The wing expansion in this situation was about 7 feet. Mrs. Brown thought and that it has shrunk some since that time. Owing to the repulsive odor, Mrs. Brown did not care to have the Condor Carcass near her house so the chicken wire was ~~stretched~~ ^{stretched} with the Condor ~~thereon~~ ^{thereon}, across the hay-mow of her barn and kept a distance of about three feet from the floor of the barn. The barn being about 200 feet from ~~Brown~~ ^{the} ~~house~~ ^{residence}. The Condor Carcass has remained in this barn up to the present time. Children have played in this barn since the Condor Carcass was placed here. Dogs and cats enter and leave this barn at will. Several people have come to see the Condor Carcass. People from Bakersfield College or Junior College, had come to take the carcass at one time, but Mrs. Brown thought them discouraged from taking it by the odor. It ~~retained~~ ^{retained} for years, and is still quite strong today. Another person from Bakersfield College was to come and take the carcass for its skeleton - This was -

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Never done, although Mrs. Brown wondered what became of several of the large wing primaries.

I told Mrs. Brown that I would return tomorrow afternoon and take possession of the Condor Carcass in her barn and go about seeing that the proper authorities were alerted to its presence and that it would be used only in the interests of science.

Driving through the Poso Flats area to the east of Grape station I met a Mr. Johns moving cattle along the roadway inquired of him about Condor in his area. He told me of seeing three Condor on the mountain above East end of Poso Flats last spring. One Condor was a hen and the other a rooster. He did not infer how he differentiated between the sexes nor what the third bird was. He will be on the lookout for Condor.

Driving to Oak Flat Lookout of U.S. Forest Service, via Eugene grade, I met Helen King an elderly lady of 70 years who operates this lookout during the summer months. She has not seen Condor from this Lookout this year. she saw only three Condor last year. In years prior to 1962 she saw more Condor than now. many Condor in a flock have passed by this lookout in former years according to Mrs. King.

Mrs. King was lookout on Tobias Peak, that is north of Posey in southern Tulare County in the years 1946 to 1952 - saw Condor very seldom there. She was stationed on Cook Peak Lookout in the summer of 1952. saw no Condor when on Cook Peak, that is about four miles southeast of Isabella, Kern Co, Calif.

Helen King questioned my knowledge of Condor. She advised me that ~~condor~~ yearling Condor are all black. at 2 years old Condor are getting some red on their bodies. at three years old Condors are full adults. She also advised me that there are two kinds of Buzzard. the big ones are large and are not Buzzards. They are

vultures. The smaller ones are buzzards - they are dirty and brown and not black like vultures. She thought people who write bird books should know of this for she never sees these differences in scavenger birds recorded in bird books.

IN 1952 when on Cook Peak Lookout, Helen King saw an eagle come very close to her station. As it flew close by she made a quick mental observation of the width of this eagle's wings in relation to the upright posts on the railing around the station. She found the eagle to measure 9 feet from wing tip to wing tip.

IN 1961, on Oak Flat Lookout, Helen King saw twenty condors in one flock, circling about her station. Ten of these condors were yearlings and ten were two year old birds. None were adults she said.

Condor mostly pass just to the left of Oak Flat Lookout according to Helen King. They usually seem to come from the southeast and continue on towards the northwest. After a stay of two or three days these birds return in a direct reverse direction on the same route.

Helen King thinks they stay in the Tehachapi mountains.

Helen King is considered an authority on condors, and sights many more condors than does any other lookout station according to what I was told by Opal Grimes and District Ranger James Toland, at the Bakersfield office.

Helen King told me that Mrs. Morrison, of Breckenridge Mountain Lookout, had been turning in condor observations on three separate days during the last week. Mrs. King said she thought these observations of no value for she said Mrs. Morrison is new and does not know condors. I talked to Mrs. Morrison on the phone from Helen King's Lookout. She said she used the identification marks that I had pointed out to her in photographs as a basis on which to establish the —

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Eben Ingham

10 July 1963

observations she had made on Condor and turned into the Bakersfield Office. She probably saw Condor.

I arrived at the summer Cow Camp of Charlotte and Hugh Smith at 7:00 P.M. Their camp is about four miles north of Oak Flat Lookout and on the southwest end of the Greenhorn Mountain complex. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are lifelong residents of the Poso Creek and White River drainage and both are very qualified observers, know a good deal about all aspects of Natural History in their area and professing a great interest in the welfare of all wildlife and plants.

Special Notes

Thinking of H. Smith

Hugh Smith thought Condor came to the Granite Station area about the time squirrel poisoning is started each spring, in May and June that would be. He thought Condor much more plentiful in the 1940's and 1950's than is the case today. He thinks that the killing of Coyotes with 1080 Poison, through their eating the poisoned squirrel has led to the great increase in Deer, in his area, in the last fifteen years. Hugh Smith said he thought Condor came from far to the south to feed in his area.

Condor shot

Condor wings

Hugh Smith was born near Jack Ranch, on White River, some 8 miles north of Woody, Kern County, Calif. in 1894. His father, who was a great hunter, told Hugh of seeing Condor since 1893. His father also told him of seeing a Condor that had been shot. This sometime in the 1890's. Hugh Smith remembers seeing Eagle and Condor wings stretched out on the side of a barn at the Horton Ranch, four miles northeast of the Jack Ranch, in 1904.

Hugh Smith saw Condor quite regularly up until five or six years ago. Both Hugh and Charlotte Smith thought the country was much more open in the early years of 1900 to 1920. A few scattered big Oaks where now there are small, and thick, and brush species have come in.

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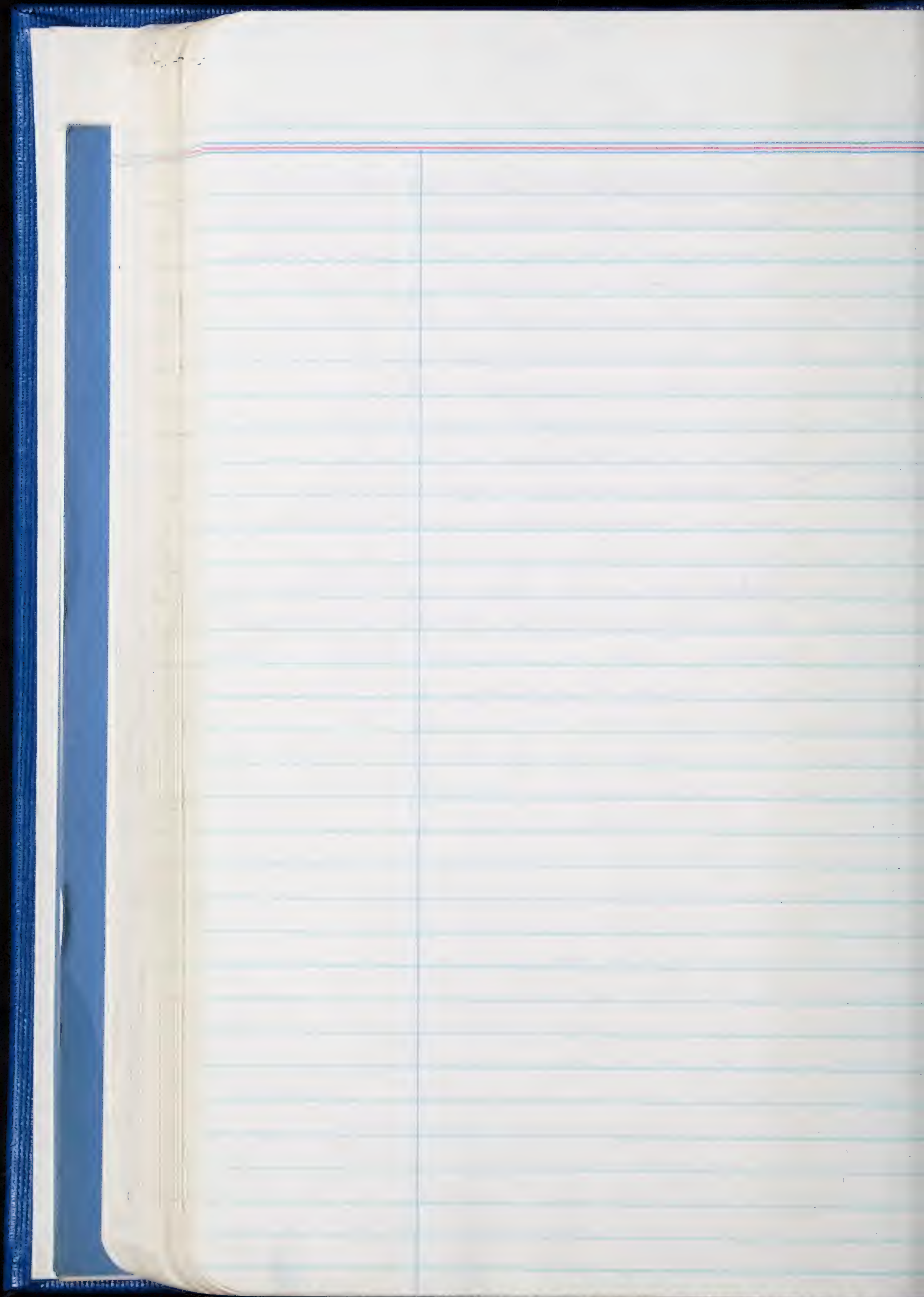
Hunters
not anything

Hugh Smith has no favorable comments for hunters, particularly deer hunters, who he said, have no respect for others rights or property, and he feels they will kill or shoot at anything within sight of the road that is moving. He thinks deer hunters would shoot at any large bird that might come within shooting range of their guns.

odd
Rats

Remic Albretbie, who also runs cattle in summer, to the south of Hugh and Charlotte Smith, came to the Smith camp in the late evening, told me of seeing Condor and Buzzards feeding in the valleys below Woody on Kangaroo Rats. These scavengers would walk about picking up the poisoned rats that lay quite thickly ~~thickly~~ on the ground after having died from eating barley that had been treated with strychnine poison.

here



Breakfasted with the Smiths and then drove to Lumreau, the name given her summer retreat on Lumreau Creek by Edna Williams. This remarkable 84 year old lady who lives alone in this remote area, came to the door and invited me into her small home, at my knock on her door. Mrs. Williams ~~taught~~ taught school in the Granite Station area in 1903-04 and 05. She remembers seeing condor regularly in those years. She said that sheep were driven through the Granite Station area in late spring heading for the mountains. ~~any~~ any lambs dropped along this trail was left behind to die. Condor came to feed on these dead lambs. Cattle in those years were of little value and exact care was lacking - many cattle died, she said, making ample food for condor.

In 1952, according to Edna Williams, Dr. Elliott McClure saw 32 Condor in one flock in the Rancherie area at the foot of Rattlesnake grade some 6 or 7 miles southwest of Oak Flat Lookout.

Although being a lifelong student of birds, and having been responsible for developing a strong interest in wildlife, and its preservation, among the people about her, Edna Williams still lacks much of the fundamental knowledge necessary for a strong argument in favor of allowing wildlife a place in the plan of things to come. With this, those such as Mrs. Williams would be a potent force in the preservation of all wildlife and rare species such as condor in particular.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeland Farnsworth, who operate a purebred polled Herford operation south of Glenville about three miles, are very interested in nature and seem to know Condor quite well. I had heard from —

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Condor kill calves

food

Condor

5 Condor

Mrs. Brown Condor

Squirrel Poisoning

others in this community that Mrs. Farnsworth thinks Condor kill calves. She gave no indication of this when I talked with ^{her} ~~she~~ and Freeland today. Both she and Mr. Farnsworth think Condor come to their area in August each year at the time their heifers are calving. Evidently these heifers, when giving birth to their first calf, often die in the process themselves, or at least, loose their calf in the process. This furnishes food for Condor.

The Farnsworths saw five Condor in August of 1962. Mrs. Farnsworth told me of seeing 19 Condor "in the early 1950's." She saw these Condor about the same time word was going around about the Condor Nesting in the Tule River Indian Reservation.

Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth will keep records on all Condor they sight in the future.

At the Ranch of Mrs. Margaret Brown I phot. Mrs. Brown standing by the Condor carcass that hung on the back of her barn as a background. Then wrapped the Condor remains in the Canvas cover of my sleeping Bag, then loaded it in the back of my pickup and drove to the home of Carl West that is to the west of Granite Station about Two miles. Mr. West has been in the Granite Station area for many years. He became interested in Condor about 8 years ago after having been indoctrinated in their value by Edna Williams. Until this time Carl West had not noticed Condor. He now thinks Condor come to the Granite Station area in early spring about the time squirrel poisoning commences.

The Brown Condor was found by Mrs. ^{Albitie} ~~Abbie~~ ^{Albitie} ~~Abbie~~ properly cared for by Carl West. Mrs. ^{Albitie} ~~Abbie~~ ^{Albitie} ~~Abbie~~ told

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him where she had seen the Condor body. He drove to this spot, that is about 1/2 mile to the south of his home, and moving the Condor carcass onto a sheet of galvanized roofing metal that he towed behind his jeep, he hauled the carcass to his house, where it lay on the metal, with another galvanized metal sheet ~~over~~ over it for a cover, all summer. Sometime in the fall Mrs. Brown came, loaded the odoriferous Condor carcass into her station wagon and took it to her home.

condor

food-

near roadway

Carl West told me of five Condor that came, in 1961, to feed on a dead heifer that lay across the highway from his house, and about 200 feet from the highway. Mr. and Mrs. West watched these Condor from their house throughout the day they fed there. When automobiles came by on the highway the Condors would run up the hill that was immediately behind where the dead heifer ~~was~~ lay. If an automobile would stop and its occupants get out to look at the Condor, they would (the Condor) take to the air, circle the area until the road was clear of automobiles, and people, when they would return and feed on the heifer carcass again.

Carl West had read of the experiences of Lewis Wayne Walker in his effort to capture Condor for the San Diego Zoo, in the Fillmore area. Mr. West thought Walker very inefficient in his ~~to~~ not being able to capture Condor, for on occasion, he has found Condor feeding in the valleys on the property he manages, and was able to run up close to them, with a jeep car, before they could get off the ground.

On one ^{occasion} ~~occasion~~ where it was that a horse —

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he had hidden after a feeding condor ~~had~~, had become afraid of the condor and refused to approach close, he could have lassoed the bird easily before it got into the air. Mr. West thought he could capture condor quite easily.

The above is important as evidence that people must be educated that condor are not to be disturbed ~~and~~ not captured. Stories such as the Lewis Wayne Lewis affair trigger an interest in people to try to capture condor. Also important seems to be protective attitude held by most of the people in the Grand Station area towards condor, for the reason that they know condor, and have become interested in them through the efforts of Edna Williams and a few other women of the area. Educating people about condor in areas which these birds range seem to add to the chances of condor to survive.

I packed up the pickup this morning and at 8:00 A.M. headed for Tehachapi Valley in Kern County, via Bakersfield. Visited with Riley Patterson in the Government Building in Bakersfield. He told me that, to the best of his knowledge, no sheep were summering in the high country of the Sierra Nevada range south of Madera County. He thought most of the sheep are now on summer range in Mono County, where, he ~~reported~~ reported, word was coming in that coyotes, Bobcats and ^{horns} lions were killing great numbers of sheep. Mr. Patterson also said there were some sheep running on the Homer Hansen, Jr. holdings in Jawbone Canyon on the East slope of the Piute mountains; otherwise he thought most all the sheep in Kern County were in the Tehachapi Valley and the Antelope Valley or Southeast Kern and North Los Angeles Counties.

2
Pomfroy
Kern Co.
Riley Patterson told me of seeing two Condor a few miles East of Onyx in the Kern River drainage a week or so hence. We had written Ian of this observation that he said took place just above the highway and not too much distance between he and the two Condor that when first seen were just off to his left and low enough that he saw them out the window of his automobile. Both birds sailed about the area for about 20 minutes, allowing for a good view of their characteristics. Mr. Patterson said no noteworthy features were visible about either bird that would give an opportunity to recognize them on sight were they seen again in the near future. Both Condor were adults and they were last seen heading Northwest.

Mr. Patterson also told me of seeing Condor in the Cuyama Valley nearly every time he goes there. Last year, he said, the Selby Brothers had two flocks of sheep pasturing on Caliente Mountain, in Southeast S.B.O. County. He thought they could be there again this year.

Several years ago when he was living in Parkfield, Monterey-

California Condor

Ebon McMillan

15 July 1963

Condor?
1404-200000

country, he regularly saw condor there. ~~one~~ ^{on} ~~one~~ ^{occasion}

in the region north of Castle Mountain, he saw twenty condor in one flock, ten of which were young birds.

I think Jan or I should go with Riley Patterson soon and check his ~~own~~ observations. He sees lots of Condor or perhaps Eagles? Mr. Patterson told me he spends no time in his Bakersfield office then he has to. He said is usually there on Monday mornings.

I went to office of M & R Sheep Company in Oildale. Mr. Joe Moglas, who manages this office, told me that of M & R Sheep Company sheep were in Mono County in the Leavitt area or in Tehachapi Valley or else on the Tejon Ranch property, this company has rented. Mr. Moglas is a Basque - has never seen Condor but has heard of them.

I then drove to Tehachapi via the Caliente Road old highway 466, lunching under the tall overpass, the old road, by the new highway, en route. The sheep are just moving in on the barley and wheat stubble around Tehachapi. None of the shepherds I talked with had seen Condor. At one of the sheep trailers I met Bob Smith who works for the Kern County board of health and is primarily engaged in checking for Rabies, or at least the words, Rabies Control, were boldly printed on the side of the pickup truck Mr. Smith drives, as well as this pickup having a mesh-wire cage on the back for hauling dogs or cats. Perhaps the Rabies part of his job is used as a scare feature to keep people from questioning what these fellows do with their time. He told me his ~~mileage~~ ^{mileage} the past month was 3000 miles. He requests that all dead sheep that lie near habitation must be skinned and hauled away some distance. The reason he has the sheep be skinned is so they will disintegrate

more quickly and not bloat and remain to smell the area for some time as do sheep when left with the pelts on. Mr. Smith said that the public complain if animal carcasses are left where the smell will reach habitation.

Bob Smith also told me of seeing great numbers of Condor feeding on dead sheep near the M + R sheep company alfalfa fields at Cantil, in Kern County. He said he had thought of trapping one of the Condor to get a good look at one. This was in the winter of 1961. Sheep were dying in heavy numbers about this location in the winter of 1961. Bloat from alfalfa was thought to be the cause. Lorenzo Echevere a Basque who owns a partnership in two of the sheep flocks now in the Tehachapi Valley later told me that he was at Cantil in winter 1961 and he thought the large Carrion birds Mr. Smith referred to were Buzzards.

I gave Lorenzo Echevere a photograph of a Condor in flight and several self-addressed envelopes with the understanding that he will report any sightings of Condor made by either he or his shepherds in the Tehachapi area this fall. He will check any sightings against the photograph for positive identification.

I drove to Cummings Valley in late afternoon. The Mormon race horse man, Rex Elsworth, only recently purchased the 15000 + acre ranch in the south end of the Cummings Valley for 40 dollars per acre. He has people running the ranch now who are new to the country. Two and Three year old Brahman cross Steers are now on this range. No one on the place knows about Condor.

A Mr. Roe, who is caretaker for the Anso/abehere People, who run sheep, and come into their place in Cummings Valley in the fall and winter, to lamb, does not know Condor -

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

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but advised me to return in November when the Ewes are dropping lambs, for he thought some of the big birds that come to feed on the dead lambs may be Condors.

Joe Banducci, who lives on the southeast side of Cummings Valley, and who has been in the Cummings Valley area all his life, has never seen a condor. He worked for the People who own Bear Mountain for many years and has gathered cattle all over that mountain without seeing Condor. He knows Buzzards and Eagles by sight. He doubts that Condors ever come to Cummings Valley. Mr. Banducci is about 70 years old. Has lived in the valley since 1893.

Bud Cummings who lives in the canyon behind the old Cummings Ranch where his father still holds out, told me of seeing Condor at times on top of Cummings Mountain, but that he has never seen Condor down in Cummings Valley. He said he saw four or five Condors on top of the mountain about two months ago. He has seen them land in the rocks on top of the Cummings Mountain but he does not think they nest there. Bud Cummings is about 50 years old. He thinks Condors much ^{more} scarce now than they were in the past. He will serve as an observer and report any Condor he should see when I see him or I check in with him again.

Condor

california condor

Eben McMillan

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I spent a windy night camped out on a rocky flat one mile south of Tehachapi. It was quite cool during the night. The wind that blew most of yesterday afternoon and all night kept up the pace today. A west by northwest direction seemed to be the prevailing direction from whence this wind blew. The Natives tell me this wind blows a good deal of the time in summer and fall.

I drove to Oak Creek Canyon area but found the sheep had left that area. Most of the range area surrounding the Tehachapi Valley has already been cleaned of most edible vegetation, by sheep. Overgrazed would do poorly in describing its condition at present. Generally speaking, the country around Tehachapi Valley is poor, and poorly kept.

There seems to be a building boom going on in the Tehachapi Valley. At the southwest part of the townsite many new homes are either under construction or else have been erected within the last two or three years, and a building development two miles west of the town, called Oak Knoll Estates seems to be enjoying some success. The summer climate of Tehachapi Valley is very tolerable.

In the town of Tehachapi I met two oldtimers of the area. Sam Cuddeback was born in the Tehachapi Valley area 76 years ago and has never been far away during the intervening years. Sam Cuddeback has only seen condor once in his life. That was on an evening about 10 or 12 years ago when from the town of Tehachapi he and Jim Davis saw a flock of large birds circling one mile south of the town. Sam said that both he and Davis recognized these birds to be unusual, so hopping into their car, they drove to the area where the big birds were circling. No sooner had both men reached the area than the birds dropped down and alighted on a flat area that was covered with big granite boulders. While Mr. Cuddeback and Mr. Davis, were watching —

california condor

Eben Mcmillan

16 July 1963

these birds a man drove up in a station wagon and informed them that the birds were California Condor and that he had been following them for some time. I told these two gentlemen that he worked for the Government and that he was studying condor. He had camping equipment in his automobile. He also told Mr. Cuddeback and Mr. Davis that condor will stop overnight at times such as this group were doing, and that at a certain time in the morning they would move on. Sure enough, following morning Cuddeback and Davis returned to the flat where the condor spent the night and at the hour predicted by the condor follower last night, the group of condor took to the air and flew out to the west and out of sight. according to Sam Cuddeback there were 12 condor in this group.

Condor

Sam Cuddeback is an observing man. He told me about seeing Starling in the Tehachapi Valley two or three years ago and at that time did not know what they were. He also knew cow-birds as little blackbirds and he has noted the change in the color on the shoulder of Red wing blackbirds in spring as well as noting the change in the ~~volume~~ volume of the early morning call of B. Martins (Kingbirds). He surprised me with this question, "Have you noticed how so many birds are becoming scarce in late years?" The very fact that he only saw condor on one ~~occasion~~ occasion would satisfy me that condor still come into the Tehachapi Valley.

Charles Powell, 69 years old, and a lifetime resident of the Tehachapi Valley and for many years an operator of a cattle outfit in Cache Creek and Sand Canyon, to the north and east of Monolith, told me he only saw condor once but was in Oak Creek Canyon, to the south and east of Tehachapi about 20 years ago, when he came upon 50 condor feeding

Condor

- continued -

food

on a dead cow. As Mr. Powell rode up on his horse the Condor all ran to a small hill nearby from where they launched themselves into the air. But they did not leave the ~~area~~^{area}. Instead they circled around a bit and they lit on a hillside nearby and sat waiting for Mr. Powell thought, him to leave the area when they would return to the cow carcass and continue feeding. Mr. Cuddeback thought Mr. Powell's observation was of buzzards. Even though he is not the keen observer that Mr. Cuddeback appears to be, he could have seen the 50 Condor he so vividly described to me.

I walked with Sam Cuddeback to a nearby Cafe that is operated by ~~Sam~~^{Jim} Davis, the man who shared the Condor observation with Sam. This was done to corroborate the statements of Mr. Cuddeback concerning the Condor sightings. Mr. Jim Davis was not in. His daughter advised that he had gone to Tehachapi Mt. Park to camp for a few days for his health. I drove to the Tehachapi Mountain Park, but could find no trace of Jim Davis.

The Holiday Soaring school, in Tehachapi, has student fliers and instructors in the air above the Tehachapi valley quite frequently during week days, in gliders. These gliders are towed by prop. plane to a good height, then cut loose on their own and allowed to remain aloft as long as they choose to do so. Tony Gillies, one of the students told me they had not seen Condor in the area while soaring although at times buzzards, or hawks, will get in the same thermal updraft they are flying in and they and the birds soar around together. Most ~~of~~^{of} the personnel of this school know Condor from having studied photographs of these birds in school.

I watched several of the glider flights and —

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 July 1963

Noted that the Tow plane always led the glider out to the west over the Bear Mountain area and the gliders remained over that area until ~~return~~ to return to the landing field that is on the North edge of town of Tehachapi. When returning to the landing the gliders never drifted East of the field except when swinging in to actually land. Prevailing winds probably hamper gliders movement to drift East of ~~the~~ Tehachapi Town.

The observation of Sam Cuddoback and Jim D where the 12 condor were grounded overnight, and the flight pattern of gliders over Tehachapi Valley tend to suggest this valley would not be a favorable place for soaring birds or planes, should they be forced to move from East to West in this valley.

In late afternoon I drove through Cummings Valley and taking the Comanche point Road progressed down into the San Joaquin valley. Several Buzzards were seen along this route and a pair of Young Bald Eagle were playing on the updrafts of wind over one of the points overlooking the town of Arvin.

Cholame

It was cool and a mild west wind was blowing as I drove to the Cholame flats at 10:30. A.M. Two Buzzards and four Raven were feeding on the remains of a Jackrabbit, near the roadside, about three miles south-east of Cholame Rancho ^{Headquarters} ~~Headquarters~~. I photographed one of these Buzzards in flight as it circled overhead. Driving up the Cholame valley to a point one mile north of Gene Rambo Ranch house, I reversed my direction, returned to the road that leads across the Cholame Valley and out towards the East. Following this roadway I photographed a Burrowing Owl near the roadside then drove to the draw that extends northward to the Mather and Sam Wallace places where I found the carcass of a grown cow that appeared to have perished from not being able to extract itself from the mud in the bottom of this draw, into which it had probably gone for water. Four Buzzards were on or about this carcass that appeared to have been dead about three days and was bloated to the maximum. No scavengers had broken the skin. I took a sharp axe and striking the carcass with this axe, in the area of the front shoulder, was unable to cut through the skin that having become dry was very tough, as well as ^{well as} ~~well as~~ resilient, due to the air trapped under the skin in the bloating process. Any Carnion bird or mammal would have trouble puncturing this skin.

I remained about this carcass for some time after photographing it. No Condor came into view. I left the Cholame flats and returned home at 1:30 P.M.

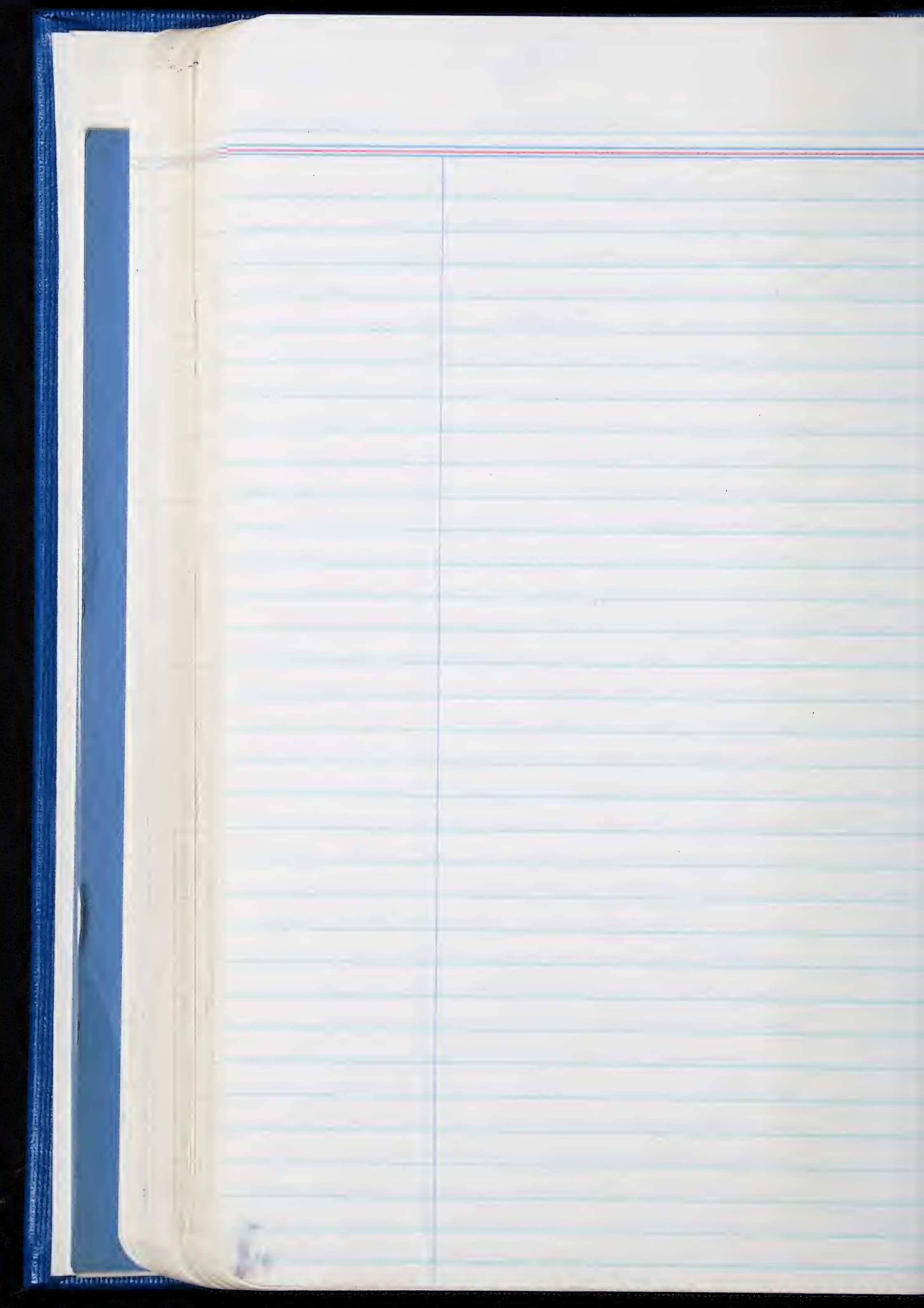
It was interesting to note that only 6 Buzzards were seen during my sojourn about the Cholame flats today. Also that adult cattle, due to the toughness of the hide, and with no coyotes to eat out the anus, offer little food for Condor.

food -

food -

cow hide =

availability



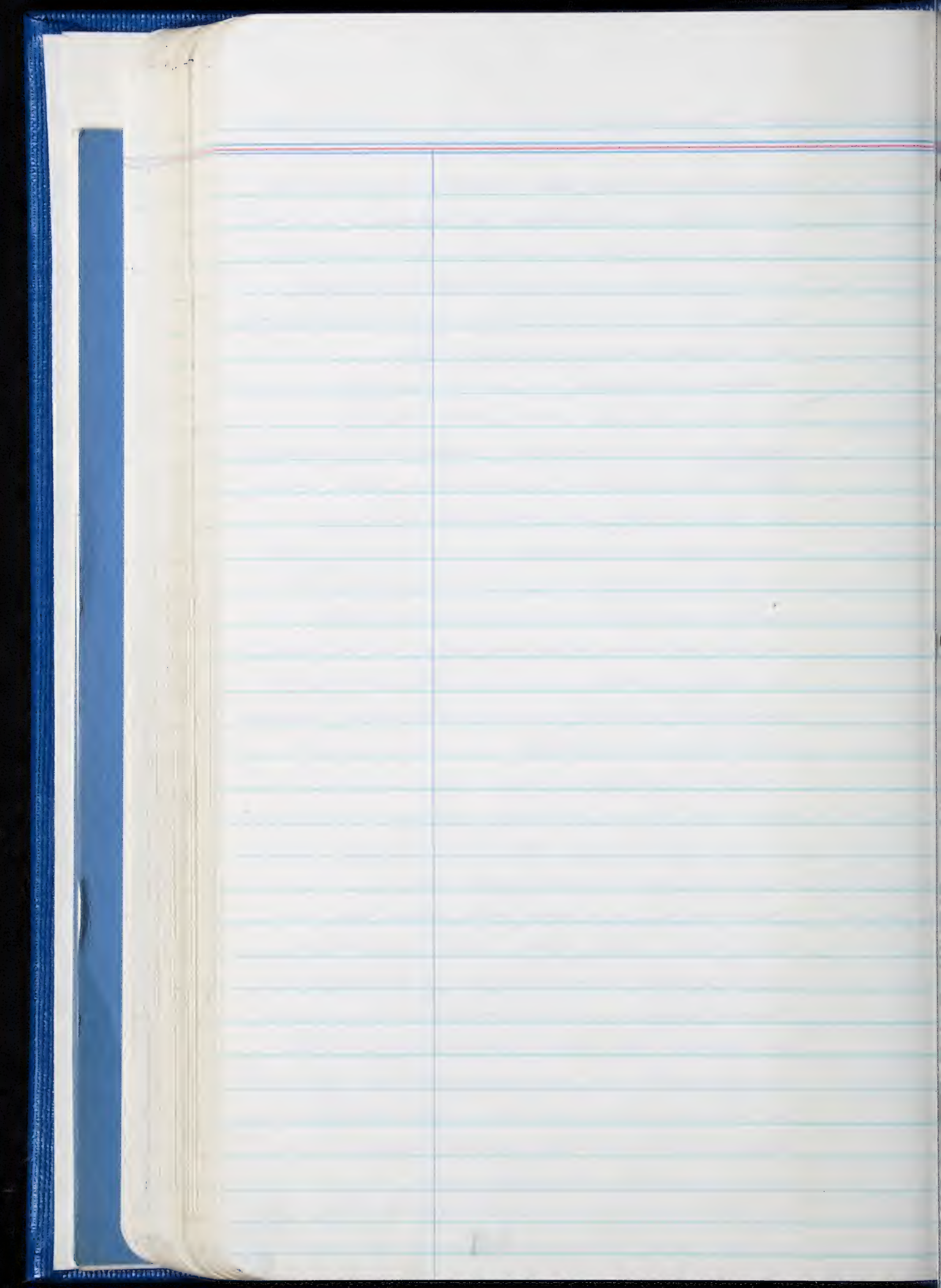
a cool East wind blew lightly as I drove to the Cholame flats at 11:00 A.M. The Cholame Rancho had branded and castrated some big calves yesterday and I wanted to see if any had died from bleeding or infection. Even though I checked the cattle carefully, no new carcasses were found of dead cattle.

about 12 Buzzards were on or about the carcass of the dead heifer that I visited yesterday. This carcass was ~~lying~~ lying in mud that prevented the Buzzards from approaching ~~close~~ closely while on the ground. They were feeding about the anus by standing on top of the carcass and reaching down to the anus and extracting substance on the inside, in this way. Only one buzzard could feed at a time. Some fighting was in evidence among the Buzzards but not including the one doing the feeding on the rear end of the cow. Instead the fighting appeared among those Buzzards awaiting their turn to feed. These would be perched on the head, neck, and backbone of the carcass.

No condor came to this carcass although I spent two hours, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. watching. The carcasses of large bovines do not appear to suit the taste of Condor. Calves and sheep are more to their liking.

The excess numbers of cattle on the Cholame Rancho have already seriously depleted the range grasses. These cattle are already beginning to weaken from want of sufficient forage. Five more months remain before new grass can even be hoped for. The problem looks serious. Returning home by way of the mouth of Palomares Canyon where cattle had recently cleaned all the leaves from a large patch of loco weed (*Astragalus - asymmetricus*) I saw a Bull chewing up and eating the leafless stems of this loco weed.

No Raven observed on Cholame Flats today - One Golden Eagle was seen circling a hillside one mile south of Kerr Grade.



19 July 1963

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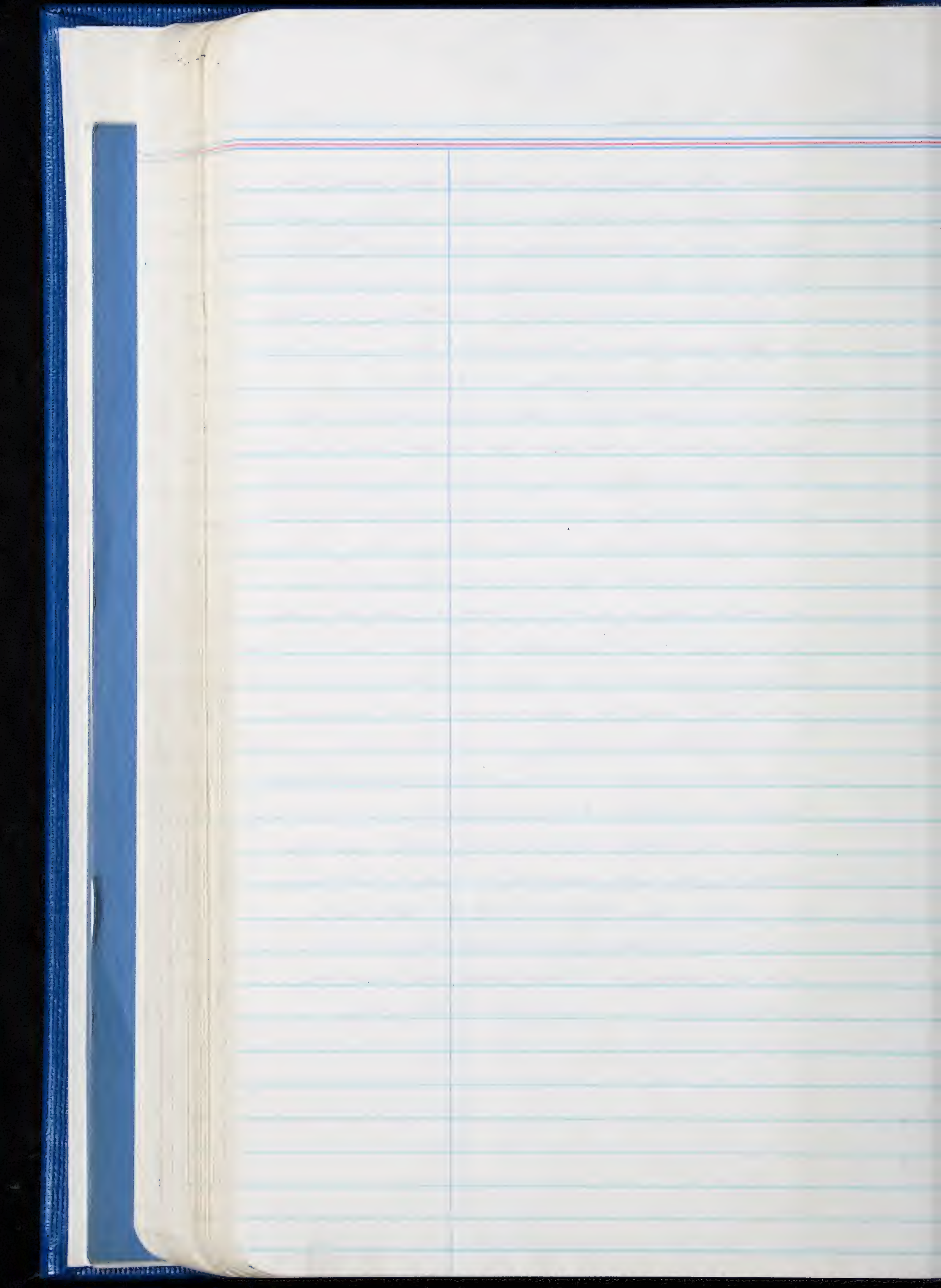
La Panza
Bear Trap
Pinole

R196

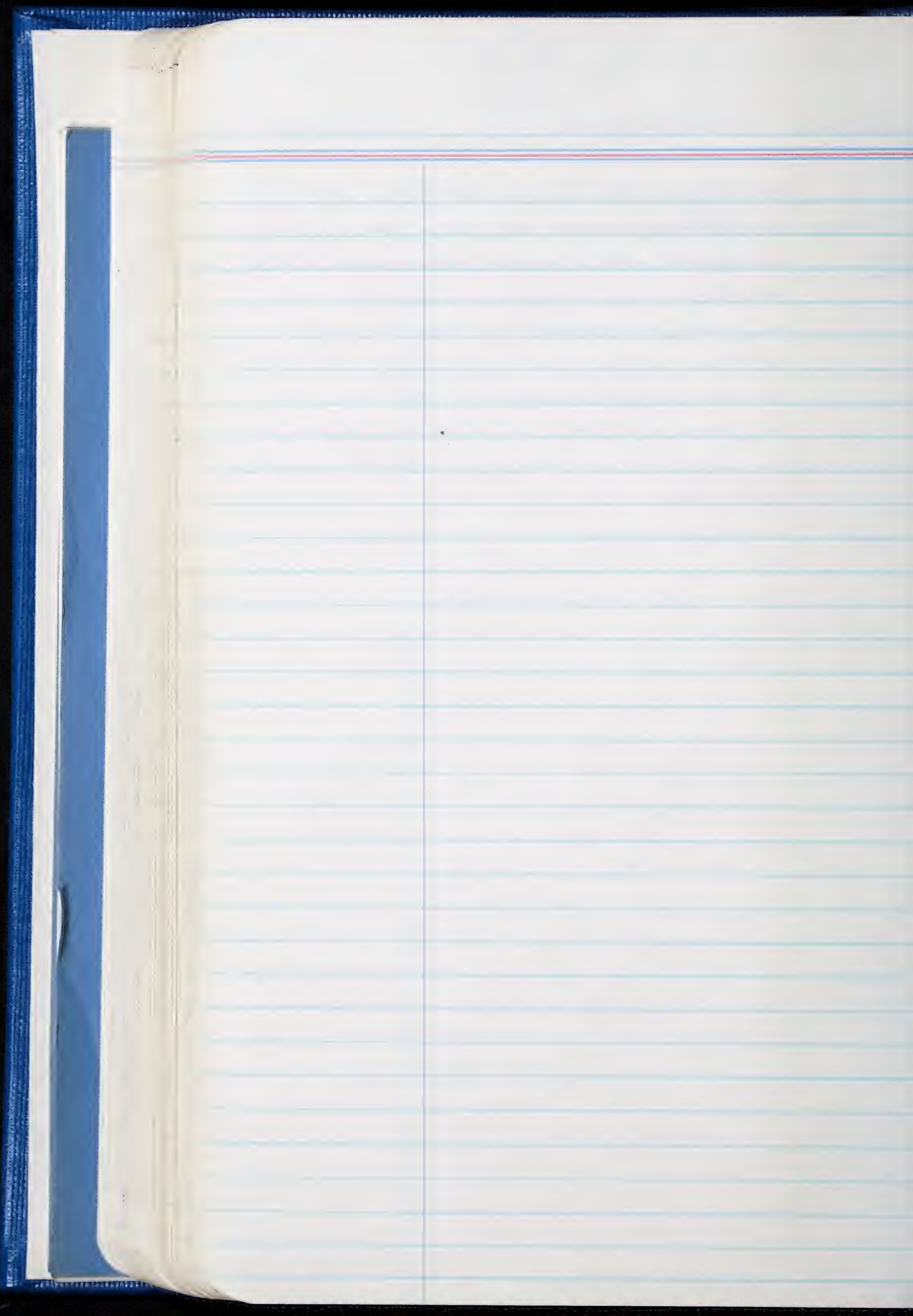
I drove to the Pinole Ranch at 9:00 A.M. and chatted with the young Basque shepherd who is tending a flock of about 400 ewes on barley stubble there. None of his ^{held} had died within the last two weeks. He had been watching, but had seen no large birds. Continuing on to the San Juan River, below the La Panza bridge on highway 178, I found all sheep on the Rudnick place had been moved out.

At the La Panza Ranch Bill Crawford had seen some large birds up the river, but did not know if they were condors or buzzards. I drove up San Juan River to Bear-trap Canyon where I parked and had my lunch - No Buzzards or Condor were seen. I then drove over the hill, inside Avenales Pattle Co. property, to Haystack Canyon where I watched for an hour with no results. Driving down Haystack Canyon at 2:00 P.M., I saw an adult Golden Eagle rise from the grass on a hillside and fly down-canyon with something held in its talons. Traveling up San Juan River I entered Piletas Canyon which I followed to the stockwater dam, then returned to La Panza Ranch headquarters and home via Cummatte Ranch and Shell Creek route. A young Golden Eagle was observed and heard calling in the pines above Coldwater well in Shell Creek.

It was quite warm in the A.M. with a slight east wind blowing - a west wind came up in the afternoon and immediately cooled things off,



Albino
Mrs. Margaret Brown of Granite Station wrote that
Mrs. ~~Abbott~~^{Albino} found the dead condor, specimen NO. 4,
on August 11-1960, two miles southwest of Granite Station,
Kern County, Calif. This bird remained under a tin
sheet behind the yard of Carl West, who lives two
miles west of Granite Station, until May 22, 1961
when Mrs. Margaret Brown took it to her home and
hung it on a chicken wire in her barn. It was still
hanging in this barn when I took possession of it
July 11, 1963



White Wolf

R195

moderate summer temperatures seem to continue. I arrived in Bakersfield at 9:00 A.M. via Blackwell's corner - Bellridge & Shafter. Phoned Henry Melendy of Lebec, who will take me to North Teton Ranch mountain area next Thursday at 8:00 A.M. I then drove to mouth of Caliente Wash where Martin Ansolibe here has three bands of sheep on stubble on some stubble and some unharvested barley that was not fit to harvest.

Lazaro Vara, a shepherd for Ansolibe here, and who can talk some English, told me he had seen no birds that would answer the description of a Condor. He said Buzzards had been about when sheep die, and Ravens in good numbers, but he felt sure no Condor. Martin Ansolibe here knows Condor, having been in the sheep business in the Bakersfield area for many years. He told me that he had seen no Condor for four or five years. Both Ansolibe here and his three sheep herders will be on the lookout for Condor and notify me in the event they observe any.

Driving from Caliente Wash to White Wolf pass, via Arvin, I lunched near the Teton cattle corrals in White Wolf pass. Saw no large birds.

Lazaro Vara told me he had found a large blind that he thought had been shot near where his sheep feed. This is along the line of Arizona Cypress, or Salt Cedar, trees that ring the property of De Georgio Corporation, who are large agricultural operators north of Arvin. Vara said there is someone shooting along these trees nearly every day and ^{that} it gets quite dangerous when they shoot through the trees not knowing anyone is on the opposite side. He said the dead bird was brown with a hooked beak. Probably a red-tailed hawk. I could not find it.

food items
not eaten

source

shooting

dead blind

california condor

Eben McMillan

24 July 1963

Condor

Arriving in Tehachapi valley at 11:00 p.m. I checked with the shepherds there, but found they had seen no Condor. Went to home of Jim Davis and upon questioning him found that he ~~could not~~^{could not} remember ever having seen Condor south of the town of Tehachapi with Sam Cuddabeck. He did see the Condor, in the pine forest, on the ground, on top of Bear Mountain about 18 years ago. He was felling timber at the time and was walking up a trail, to his work, when the three Condor flew from the forest ~~floor~~^{floor}, Not far where he was, and did some fancy maneuvering as they flew out among the thinly scattered pine trees. These were the only Condor Jim Davis ever saw, and he has lived in the Tehachapi Valley for fifty years, with the exception of a lone Condor seen about 17 years ago on the Cuddabeck Ranch that was then near where Monolith Cement plant now stands in Tehachapi valley.

- history -

Grand Condor

Condor shot

Condor

On the advice of Jim Davis I went to home of Vic Phillips, another old timer of the Tehachapi valley and who was supposed to be aware of condors. Mr. Phillips has been in the Tehachapi valley 56 years and during much of this time was associated with the livestock industry, working a ranch ~~foreman~~^{foreman} and cowboy. He is a brother-in-law of Sam Cuddabeck. Vic Phillips worked on the Jameson Ranch ~~for~~^{for} years. He saw Condor regularly in Whitetoe Creek ~~where~~^{where} the Jameson Ranch was situated. About 1928 Phillips saw the carcass of a Condor, and also the carcass of an Eagle, stretched on the side of a barn in Tehachapi valley that two kids had shot. When Phillips told those kids (boys) that it was against the law to shoot Condor, he said they sure were scared. About 1929 Mr. Phillips saw 28 Condor feeding on a dead heifer on Jameson Ranch in Whitetoe Creek. About the same year a Bull died on Jameson Ranch and Condor came to

Tehachapi

R 200

continued -

California Condor.

Eben McMillan

24 July 1963

2329

Food

Feed on this Bull carcass. A man, who said he was from the Fish and Game Department came by and said to Phillips - "Why you have all the Condors in existence right here on your ranch". The man told Mr. Phillips that there was only supposed to be 28 or 30 Condor alive in existence. Mr. Phillips told the Fish and Game man that someone was wrong for he (Phillips) had seen many more than 30 Condor together several times. The Fish and Game man then inquired of Mr. Phillips if he knew where the Condor roosted. Mr. Phillips said that he told the man that only a week before, in the late evening, he ~~had~~ was riding in the upper reaches of Charlie Moore Canyon, a tributary of White Rock Creek, and saw the Condor coming in to roost in large live Oak trees that grew there. The Fish and Game man then went to Charlie Moore Canyon and upon returning told Vic Phillips that what he saw there would have seemed incredible had he not seen and seen for himself. Vic Phillips thought the Fish and Game man told him he had counted 80 or more Condor in Charlie Moore Canyon. Phillips can't remember the number the man gave as seeing but it was above 80 Condor he felt sure.

here

Before the fish and Game man went to Charlie Moore canyon to see the Condor roost he had taken a photo of Two Condor, one Coyote, Several Buzzards and a number of Raven, all feeding on the Bull carcass at the same time. He told Phillips he would send him a print of this negative. but Phillips never received the print.

Condor

Condor
found
under the

Condor

Vic Phillips saw two Condor flying one mile south of Tehachapi about one year ago.

XXXX =

Jackrabbit

Vic Phillips, about 30 years ago, saw Two Condor catch a Jackrabbit. near Tehachapi. He told me that on this occasion he was riding horseback down a roadway when a young Jackrabbit got up out of the brush near the roadside and ran down the road before Phillips. A Condor -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

24 July 1963

came from behind, swooping over Phillips head, and picked up the rabbit in its talons carrying it about 100 feet into the air when another condor rushed in from behind and as it swept under the first condor, this one let go of the rabbit while the second condor caught it in its feet and turn, after gripping the rabbit briefly let go the rabbit was immediately caught up again by the first bird. This exchange went on several times when the Jackrabb dropped to the ground. Phillips rode over and picked rabbit up, observed no wounds but noted that the creature was dead. He then fed the Jackrabb to his d that gulped it down in a few minutes. The two condor continued to circle the area for some time searching for the Rabbit. Phillips said he told this to several people who rebuffed him for thinking a condor would kill a rabbit when they are supposed to be strictly scavenger birds. Vic Phillips said he didn't care what they thought. He knows Condor from Eagles and that there were two G. He said he could tell them by the replica of a wing, under their wing, outlined in white. I don't think there is any doubt but that Vic Phillips has seen Condor at Times. This must have been a young Golden Eagle and possibly an adult instructing the young in predatory acts. The white ^{of} the young Eagle probably threw Phillips off on his identification. This observation casts a shadow on Phillips claim to have seen so many Condor in the late 1920s. At 5:30 p.m. five Buzzards were seen flying slowly against the stiff west wind blowing in Tehachans valley. They did much flapping of their wings and were making slow progress westward. I drove to the Antelope Valley in Southeast Kern County and spent the night camped in a grove of Joshua Trees that was on the fringe of a large land development where several thousand of Joshua Trees had been burned and buried in the process of

Antelope Valley

- continued -

P. 202

California Condor.

Eben McMillan

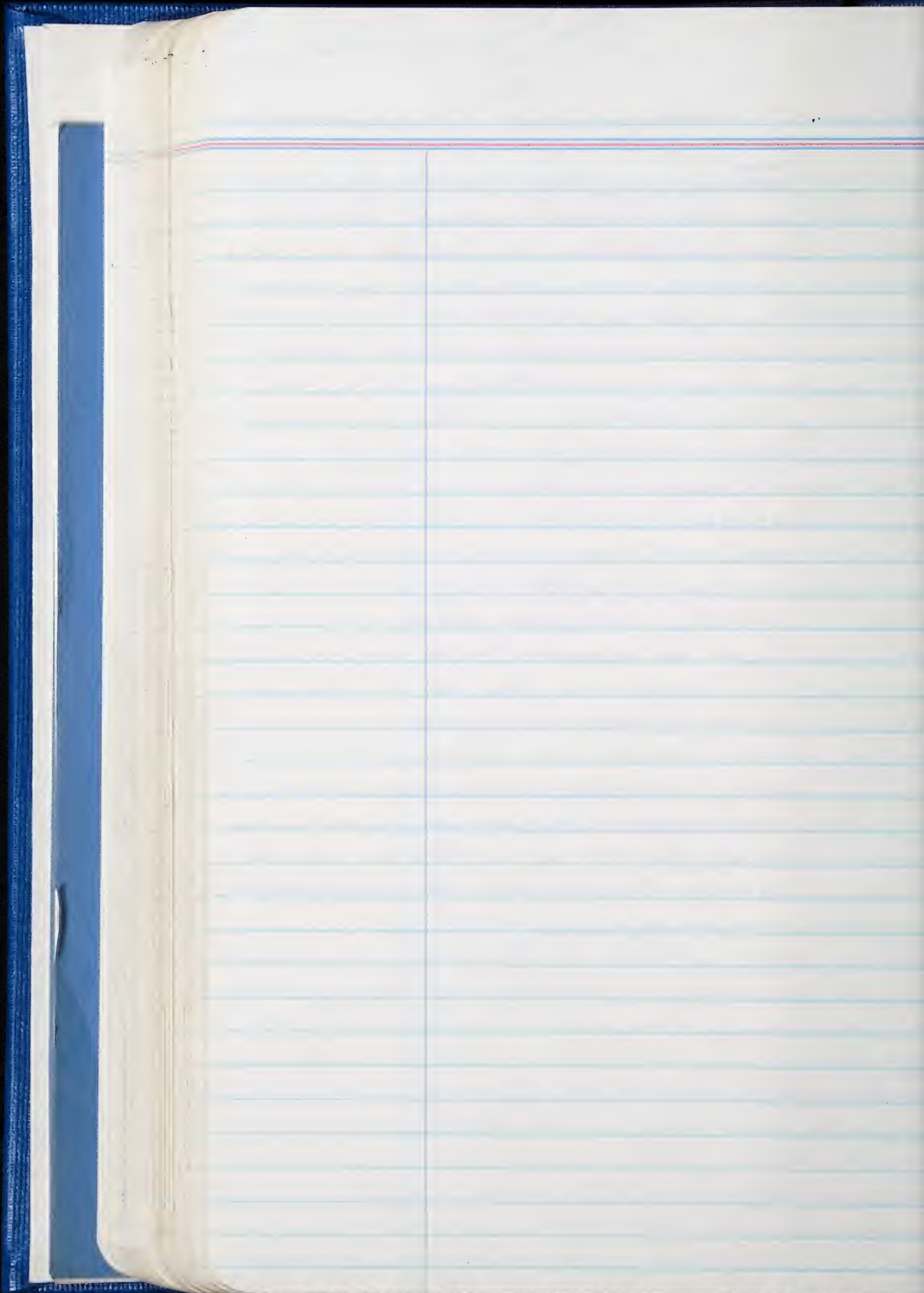
24 July 1963

2329

leveling, ~~leveling~~ and grading, streets for this development that is offering 2 1/2 acre lots for sale. Several Trailer-houses dot the area where purchasers of the land come to spend a weekend, now and then. Two houses appear to be occupied, but just occupied! The Tracks of Toto-Gotes, or Trail-bikes, ribbon this part of the desert. Scarcely a can remains on the desert floor that has not been riddled by bullets. Nowhere on this desert does one see any sign of responsibility by human beings here.

The smoke plume of a forest, or brush, fire, that appeared to be to the east of Castaic Junction. Cast a pall of smoke over the Antelope Valley at sunset. A stiff west wind held this smoke to the center and south portions of the valley. It was quite cool in the evening.

I had been following the Trail of Sheep most of the distance from Tehachapi. Sheep that were moved from Tehachapi, to Antelope Valley, followed the same desert road that parallels the Los Angeles aqueduct, as did I. Although I saw signs of where the herders and their flocks had camped, I came upon none. One could see where the sheep were watered and fed alfalfa hay enroute. For the trip from Tehachapi probably took three to four days with a large band of sheep.



Up and was breakfasting as the sun rose clear and cool, with a west wind that blew throughout the night, now abating. Cactus wren, mourning dove, Le Conte's Thrasher and ladder backed woodpecker sang from the Joshua forest. I saw no reptiles.

Driving on westward along the edge of the Antelope valley I came to where the sheep were. Four bands were scattered about on barley and wheat stubble some of which had not been productive enough to pay to harvest while others areas were so badly overgrown with Russian thistle that it was not harvestable.

I met Miguel ^{Iturriza} ~~Iturriza~~ who was in charge of two flock of sheep that the M & R Company had moved down here from the mountain area on north part of Tejon Rancho. He doubted that condor had come to any of the sheep carcass either here or in the mountains since he has been around. Miguel can talk some english. He admitted that few if any sheep people ever pay attention to birds of any sort. ~~Now~~ Now that he knows what condor look like, from seeing my photos, and knowing that there is an interest in their welfare, he will not only be on the lookout for them but will also instruct his herders to be on the lookout also.

I met one herder of Mendocino sheep that was very slow witted. He not having knowledge of English and not being able to interpret my poor Spanish, we accomplished very little with the meeting. He did have a lamb carcass lying near his camp that I took some distance away to see if scavengers of any sort would come to it.

While setting this carcass out I saw a pickup truck running along the Tejon Ranch fence in a westerly direction. I intercepted this vehicle and found it driven by Dan Garcia who was just returning to his squirrel-

california condor

Eben Mcmillan

25 July 1963

food

Raccoon Coyotes

poisoning camp where Ian and I had visited with him on 16 June 1963. They had seen no condor since that date even though they had killed many squirrels Rats as well as 17 Coyotes that they had found dead from having eaten the poisoned squirrels. They had ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} few Buzzards and Raven where they had poisoned.

Dan Garcia told me that the Buzzard we had looked behind his cabin, on 16 June, and which we thought had been poisoned, had been shot by his boy. The buzzard had come to feed on a dead Quail near the cabin where boy had shot it with a pistol. Dan said he had given a strong talk about the unnecessary shooting of wild creatures.

Since the week of June 10, 1963 Dan has been poisoning squirrels on the East side of Tejon mountains. Just today he is moving his crew to a area South and East of ~~Lebec~~ Lebec. I will visit him there next Wednesday.

{
found
Condor
Poisoned

dead condor

poison

Dan Garcia also told me that he was telling his boss in Bakersfield, Ben Easley, about the project Ian and I were doing on the Condor. Ben Easley had known of Brown Condor at Granite Station and called Mrs Brown to find if she still had it, only to find we already had the specimen in our possession. Dan Garcia told me that he had heard of another dead Condor in the Granite Station area or Ben Easley had heard of it. This specimen was so far decomposed when found that no one had ever picked it up. The impression Dan received was that both Condor had been poisoned. Dan had heard of the poison grain falling from the Brown when found.

Driving back past where I had left the sheep carcass noted that while I had been talking to Dan Garcia a

Menach
Antelope Valley

- Continued -

Buzzard had come in and was feeding on this carcass. As I drove by the Buzzard seemed not to be overly cautious allowing me to come within 200 feet before it flew and returning to the carcass as soon as I had passed a safe distance on.

I chatted with three shepherds who were tending flocks for Noriega. They knew no English but were well enough informed that they could make out my Spanish. They had seen no large birds about, but will be on the lookout from now on and inform me what they see the next time I come to their area. These three shepherds tended flocks that were not far from one another and were all visiting at one Trailer house. They all were interested in knowing if I wanted to shoot the big birds and if not what was the purpose of my interest in them. I told them that the American people did not want to see any animal vanish from this land and that the purpose of the study was to see if Condor were becoming scarce and if so what were the factors involved in their disappearance and what could be done to halt their decline, if this is possible. The Basque Shepherds understood even though they said that in Spain, outside of Game birds, everything is shot all year around. One shepherd said birds ~~are~~ were an important item in the diet of many Basque families.

I also met a Mr. Johnson who farms about 6000 acres of dry land on the North West end of the Antelope Valley - He told me that the strong prevailing West winds that blow here continually are a problem to agriculture. These strong, dry winds pull moisture from the ground nearly as soon as it falls. Mr. Johnson has been farming here in the Antelope Valley for 16 years,

shoot - Condor

Nevada
Condor

California Condor

Eben McMillan

25 July 1963

Camp 1000

and has not yet harvested a good crop. always just enough to pay expenses. He said that should he ever have a crop of 1000 pounds of barley to the acre, and some of wheat, he would retire rich.

Most of the land Mr. Johnson Farms is on property of the company, who are subdividing the area where we camped last night. He said this subdivision commenced about four years ago. The subdividers tell him to keep farming until someone tells him to stop. That when he comes to an area that has been developed or on which a house or trailer house stands for him to pull out around them and go on farming. He said one or two have come to live on their 2 1/2 acre ranches, but that most only pay 3 or 4 percent then let it go. Johnson thinks most of the land, or plots, have been sold several times. Johnson had not seen Condor

observe

I returned to Tehachapi via same route stopping to take photographs of bullet riddled signs and Tank. Saw several Le Conte's Thrasher and 5 Roadrunners. Also a pair of Burrowing Owl. Several times during the day airplanes that flew over the Tehachapi and Antelope valleys bounced the air with Sonic Booms. In the Antelope valley area I think these explosions would be two per hour and in the Tehachapi area probably somewhat less, but still more frequent than in most places. Even at home nevertheless they always seem to catch me off guard and give me a sudden start. I am wondering what effect these concussions would have on a large soaring bird such as a Condor. I will inquire of the glider pilots to see if they can feel the influence of these booms.

In the evening I talked with Mr. ~~Tharpe~~ ^{Tharpe}, the Game

California Condor

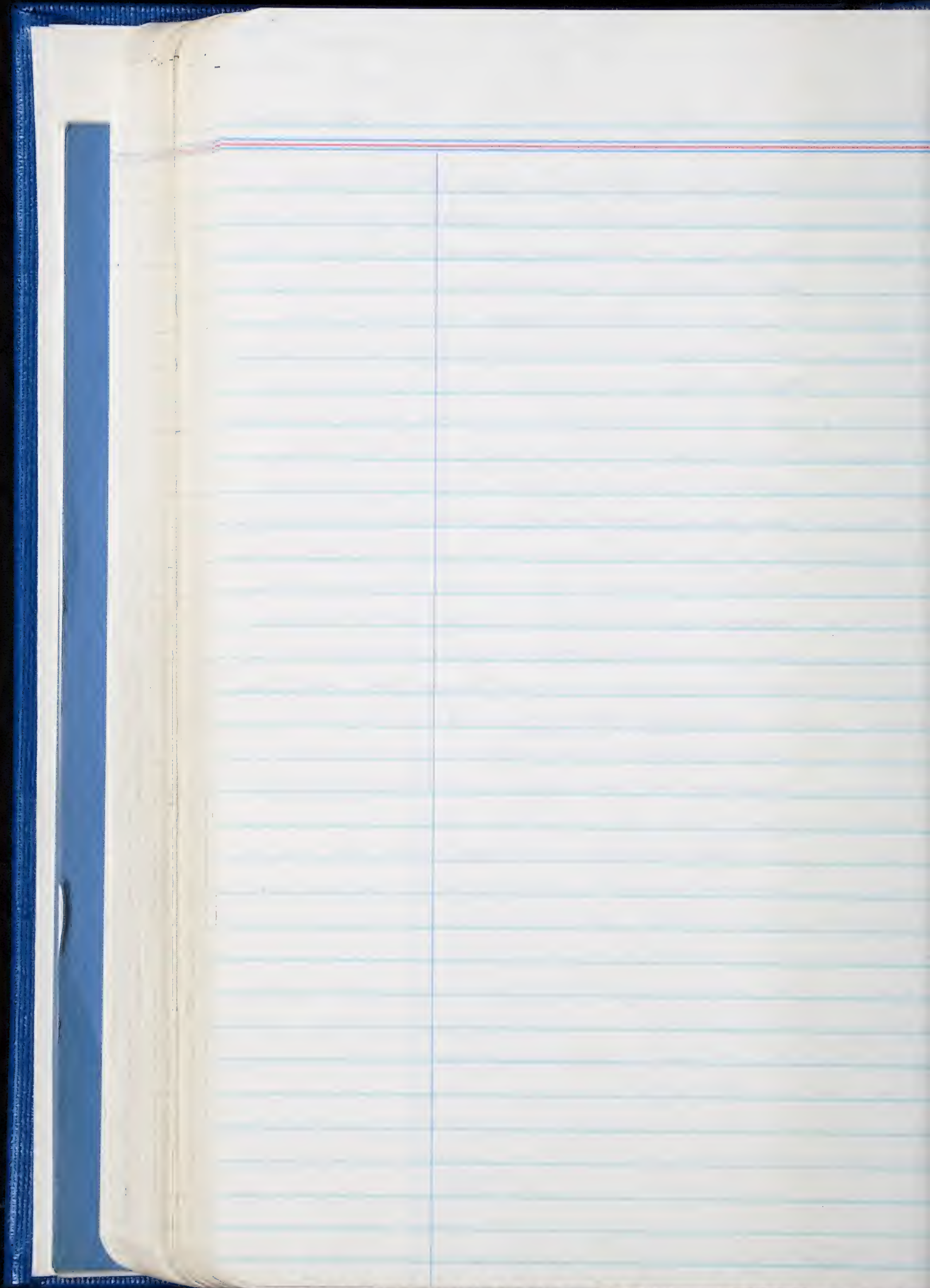
Eben McMillan

25 July 1963

2329

warden in the Tehachapi area, who had been on vacation and will only be returning to duty in two more days - he had no new information on Condor. He did tell me that the south portion of his district that runs out into the desert area, where I was this morning, is always a problem with shooting - The week before his vacation started he made 16 arrests most of which he will get convictions. Loaded guns in cars - Possession of illegal game and shooting or hunting for game without a license. Most of the law-breakers are from the Los Angeles area. He did not mention arresting anyone for shooting birds other than game birds. He is very pleased with the support he gets from the two judges before whom he brings his cases. One in Mojave, the other in Tehachapi. Either of these judges give stiff fines for infractions of the game laws. Mr. Thorpe said he would give us all the support and help that he could, when he goes back to work next.

I camped at sunset in the rock section one mile south of the town of Tehachapi - a brisk west wind was blowing as it was cool.



Tehachapi

12-208

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 July 1963

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up and had breakfast by sunrise. The plume of smoke, or dust, rising from the smoke-stacks of Monolith Cement Plant at Northeast end of Tehachapi Valley was still moving out Eastward behind the stiff West gale that blew all night but showed signs of letting up as the morning progressed. I drove to Tehachapi about 7:00 A.M. and found Sam Cuddabeck and an Indian named Jerry Scott panning dirt they had taken from a prospect hole somewhere yesterday. The pan had a good showing of cinabar ore. Sam asked had I seen Tim Davis, and had he remembered the year they saw the Condor alight, in the evening, on the rocky section out one mile South of town. When he was told that Tim couldn't only not remember the year but that he could not remember ever having seen the Condor, Sam said this was funny, and he re-told me the story and to the best of my memory he repeated it word for word. I am quite impressed with Sam's observing capacity. He tells me there used to be three kind of Carrion birds - The Buzzard, which he describes perfectly, then the vulture; this vulture is between the Buzzard and the Condor and has the white spot in the wing. This vulture of Sam's, I would think, is a young Golden Eagle. Then the Condor; Sam thinks the size is enough to distinguish this bird.

observing -

some problems

Sam Cuddabeck wondered about sonic Booms also. He told about a lady who lived near the railroad track a while who used to get a neighbor lady who lived some distance from ^{the} railroad to hatch her chicken eggs for her. The noise and the shaking of the nest was held the reason why those eggs would not hatch so close to the railroad. Jerry Scott said the same about a lady who lived near a mine where much blasting

→

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 Ju

went on. This lady couldn't get chicken eggs to hatch -

I drove to Keene where the fire crew had no new word of condor. ~~Van Zachary~~ the fellow who was in charge of the station here at Keene, had only been moved here from Mojave two weeks ago, and knew nothing of condor but was interested and wanted to be of help if possible.

The McCarthy's were not home at Bealville -

Mrs. Mary Hennig who with her ~~parents~~ parents the Lawrence Browns, run the general store at Caliente.

condor?

Mrs. Hennig told me of seeing one condor in the road and at least two more on the nearby hillside one afternoon about two years ago. This was north and east of Caliente, on the Lion Trail road. She also took the school children from the Caliente school to a spot about 4 miles down-river from Caliente to see 8 or 9 condor feeding on a dead cow. She had seen the condor when returning from Bakerfield. This was 6 or 7 years ago.

Condor

Food

Mrs. Hennig will keep Condor notes for us.

I drove on up Caliente creek stopping to chat with three fellows working on the road who knew of Condor but had not seen any of late. One of these men had seen a condor on top of Cummings Mountain, during the summer when he built a road there.

condor?

intended -

Van Zachary of Loraine Fire station of Kern Co. knew nothing of Condor but is interested and will be on the watch for them. As Buck - , who man the Toll Gate Lookout between Loraine and Keene, said he doubted that Condor came by Toll Gate but that he had seen them on Blue Mountain Lookout to the north of Glenville when he relieved the operator there at times - Buck will be on the lookout job -

California Condor.

Eben McMillan

26 July 1963

2329

Charley Poole has not seen Condor in Caliente Creek, or anywhere, in the last 7 or 8 years. He formally saw them regularly out to the south and east of where he now resides at Lorraine Corner. Mr. Poole is a great deer hunter as well as having helped kill 24 Mountain Lion in the last 4 years. Four or Five Condor used to be the limit of the group's. Once about nine years ago he saw 9 Condor in one flock in the Indian Creek tributary of Caliente Creek. He has not seen a Condor for many years.

May Arnold who is now staying with her son, in his home, two miles up Caliente Creek from ~~Sand~~ Canyon Store, and community school, and who up until three or four months ago lived on, and operated, her own cattle ranch at the headwaters of Indian Creek, a tributary of Caliente Creek, told me of seeing two Condor in the Cache Peak area to the south and east of her ranch about two years ago - she also saw Condor frequently in early days in the Indian Creek area, but would think them much less plentiful now.

Emil H. Ritter, who now operates the Ranch that is situated two miles up Indian Creek from Lorraine Corner and on which ~~property~~ ^{property} Charlie Poole saw the nine Condor 7, or 8, years ago, has not seen Condor on this ranch since he moved here fifteen years ago. Mr. Ritter did ~~see~~ see between 15 and 17 Condor on the ground and circling in the air, near the Tejon Ranch corrals in White Wolf Pass about five years ago. He was quite sure squirrel poisoning was going on there at the time for he remembers seeing men on horseback riding near where the Condor were.

Mr. Ritter says he shoots all Eagles that he sees for he feels they deplete the deer population.

Condor

Condor -

Condor
by entered

Condor

Food

of's Eagles

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 July 1966

Mr. Ritter prides himself on being a great deer hunter. He told me of seeing a Golden Eagle drop down on a young deer and hitting the deer with its claws, rendering the creature unable to stand on its legs. Then the Eagle pecked a hole in its neck, killing it. Mr. Ritter told me he would not shoot, nor allow anyone in his presence to shoot, at a Condor. He feels their scarcity calls for their protection.

Both Mr. Ritter and Mr. Poole mentioned to me that Mr. Reed, who lives across the creek from ^{sand} ~~San~~ Ca Store had mentioned to them of his having seen five Condors within the last few weeks somewhere in the Caliente area. I stopped at the home of Mr. Reed both going and coming from the home of May Arnold's son, but did not find Mr. Reed home, either time. I will write to him in the hopes of getting this information. Stopping at the Caliente store on my return out of Caliente Canyon, I found Mrs. ^{Mary} ~~Frank~~ Hennig's father, Mr. Carrington, for the store. Seven or eight years ago he had seen a Condor feeding on the carcass of a cow about three miles down the creek from Caliente. In visiting with Brown I mentioned the difference between the scant grass and vegetation on the hills in the Caliente Creek area while the Tejon Ranch lands were well protected by a good vegetative cover. Mr. Brown saw no reason for doubting what caused this difference. "Just look at the inside of the highway and Railroad Right-of-Ways where cattle can't get in and eat all the grass and you will see why no grass now appears on the range lands in Caliente Creek. The ranches just run too darned many cattle and consequently they run out of feed about as soon as it (the grass) turns dry. I do know much about cattle but it would look to me that if the cattle cut their heads in two (in half) they would have less

Condor
feed

California Condor

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work to do, less trouble with their cattle, a better range, and better cattle to ~~sell~~ sell; yes and make more money". very well put by Mr. Brown

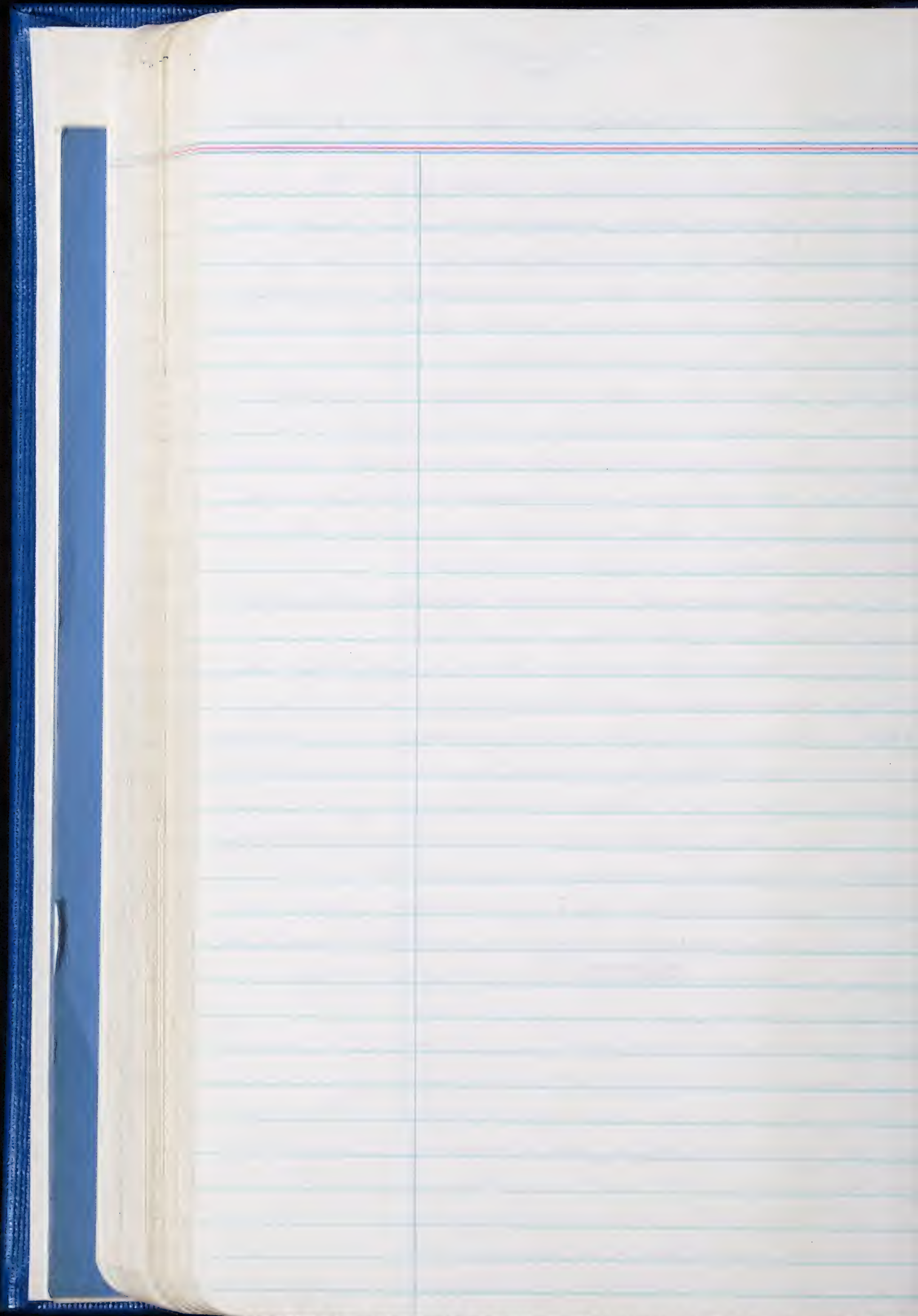
The Caliente Creek Ranges couldn't be in poorer shape. Only where the terrain is so steep, or rocky, does one see any vegetation excepting trees and shrubs or some of the unpalatable plant species. This is probably a marginal rainfall area but not considered xerophytic in the botanical terminology. Probably overgrazing has brought a marked change in the plant structure here as well as a decline in the animal population, excluding domestic livestock.

The McCarthy's of Bealville station, Two miles south of Caliente, were not home.

Everyone who owns land in the Caliente Creek drainage with whom I talked felt that deer hunters in particular, but all hunters in general, were generally irresponsible and inconsiderate of all others rights, as well as ^{the} laws that were passed to protect private and public property and interests. Large birds such as Eagles or Condor would only be looked upon by the average shooter, or hunter, as a good target for their ballistic endeavours. May Arnold had livestock shot by hunters and hiding paraphernalia stolen by them. Emil Ritter allows no one but trusted ^{acquaintances} ~~acquaintances~~ to hunt, or shoot, on his Ranch.

hunters

hooting -



at 2:05 P.M., from my living room, where I sat near the window writing notes of the Condor study, I noted the shadow of a bird pass across the front yard that appeared to be larger than the shadow of Buzzards that had been circling my house, that is something not unusual when squirrels that are shot when they enter the garden or lawn area are tossed nearby, or when any of the numerous cottontail Rabbits about my place die and are likewise tossed, a few hundred feet, from the house. Upon stepping outdoors I saw an adult Condor, in full lowering flex glide (see margin) passing over my house, about 500 feet in height, traveling in a westerly direction but definitely losing altitude quite fast. After passing on westward about 1/4 mile this Condor circled about, came back over the house this time quite low, made two more tight circles about 200 yards west of my buildings and alighted near where several Buzzards were feeding on the carcass of a large Tom Cat that my son had shot last evening and ~~which~~ the body of which I had tossed out on this hillside only this morning at 9:00 A.M. I walked down the hill below my house from where I could get an unobstructed view of the area where the Condor had alighted. From the protection of a small tree I watched the Condor sit for some minutes about 6 feet above the carcass of the cat on which two Buzzards were feeding with four or five other Buzzards standing nearby also. The Condor gave no indication of being hungry or competitive about the carcass but stood looking down at the carcass and the Buzzards feeding on it. At times the Condor preened at the feathers on its neck.

Something caused all the Buzzards, and the Condor, to quickly take to the wing. I saw, nor heard anything I could attribute to their all flying away from the —

Condor

with flex glide



food-cat

California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 July 1963

Carcass. Perhaps a horse I had staked within 125 yards of the carcass could have done something that startled them. The Condor and the Buzzards came down the canyon and after passing directly over me quite low they all commenced to circle about 200 yards to the East of my house. Several of the Buzzards returned, after circling a few times, to feed on the cat carcass. The Condor and two Buzzards continued to circle while gaining altitude. The Condor, after getting good altitude came slowly westward ~~and~~ and hovered, nearly stationary, over the area where the several Buzzards fed on the Cat carcass. Turning slowly drifted back 200 yards East of my house and then turning southward dipped its wings and made the short dive that usually precedes the going into ~~the~~ a flat glide. In the flat glide this Condor passed from sight at 2:24 p.m., heading for Machessa Mountain and Beartrap Rocks some 25 miles due south of my home.

This Condor, an adult, with feathers serrated on the wing, but with no primaries missing, is, I think, one of the Condors that ~~has~~ has been observed in the San Juan River near La Panza Ranch and on the Cholame flats by me within the last two months.

food

I was at La Panza ranch at 8:00 A.M. Chatted with Jake Martins who was interested in what he claimed was a great increase in the Rabbit and Kangaroo Rat populations this year. I think he is correct, for on the way this morning, via the Pinole ranch and ~~Tejon~~ Carissa plains, I saw no less than six dead rabbits on the roadway, victims of automobiles or trucks. This is an unusual amount. Some years one will not see a dead rabbit on the roadway for weeks at a time.

Jake showed me where the carcass of a dead sheep lay, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile East of the La Panza Ranch Headquarters. I drove to this location and found 7 Buzzards feeding on this carcass. Most of the meat had already been picked from the sheep. The Buzzards having gone into the stomach cavity, via the anus or the ~~flanks~~ ^{flanks}. The front rib cavity was still covered by the pelt.

I drove up the San Juan River to Beartrap Canyon up which I passed to the ~~Verde~~ ^{Verde} Cattle Co. ~~Property~~ ^{Property} inside which I left the pickup and proceeded on up the narrow canyon on foot. Many California Valley Quail were along the creek bed where water was present. The only pools of any size in which large birds might bathe were at a point where Beartrap creek makes a turn to the west from a south course. Here, in solid rock, two pools, one about six feet long and three feet wide; the other smaller and both about eight inches deep in water, still remain. Excrement of large birds was evident on the rock surfaces, about these pools. No feathers, other than those of small birds could be found.

I hiked on up Beartrap creek and took up a watch on a hillside to the north of Beartrap creek and due north of the big Beartrap Rocks. At 10:00 A.M. a young Golden Eagle with much white in wings and tail sailed out above the high point of the Beartrap rocks, circled several times and then drifted back and alighted in a Coulter Pine tree on the ridge top between Beartrap and Martinez canyons. Eagle calls were heard from coming from the area to the east.

hole

bathe

- continued -

california condor

Eben McMillan

31 July 1963

of beartrap rocks from 10:05 To 10:10 A.M. Two different
tuned Eagle calls could be distinguished. At 10:25 A.M. an
eagle (Golden) circled the high point of beartrap rock for one m
then drifted out of sight southward. At 11:45 A.M. Two Buzzards
dashed about on the wind currents, high above the beartrap rock
from 11:45 To 11:55 A.M. although it was hot and calm down
in the canyon bottom there ~~must~~^{must} have been strong air
up above where the Buzzards were judging from the way
were buffeted about.

I left the canyon area at 11:55 A.M. and hiked up i
above pyramid rock and Took up a watch on top of
rock just under the main rock mass and directly be
the main point of beartrap rock. I remained at this
location until 5:30 P.M. A buzzard was seen
flying about the area on two occasions during the
afternoon and many White Throated Swift dashed about
but otherwise the area was absent of birds in flight.

Leaving the beartrap rocks I arrived at the place where
had left the pickup truck at 7:00 P.M. while passing down
the beartrap creek, enroute to pickup, one adult Mountain
Quail and Nine Young that were about $\frac{3}{4}$ grown showed
little fear of me and fed and moved about within
feet of where I stood, motionless, in the trail. A
poor-will was flushed from the trail up which I had passed
about mid-day without seeing this bird. One Coyote was
startled from the trail in front of me as I passed through
one of the grass covered flats along beartrap creek. The
Coyote stopped running and returned suspiciously, toward
me as I ~~squeaked~~^{squeaked}, only to dash up the hillside, into
the brush, when appearing to catch the scent of my dogs.
Julie martins has shipped in some very poor Mexican
No, or little, food for Condor would be furnished by the
No buzzards were at the Sheep remains at Lupanza Ranch at

mt. quail

coyote

Lebec

R 217

Ian McMillan came at 5:00 A.M., to my horse, and we drove to Lebec, Kern County, where we were to meet Henry Melendy at 8:00 A.M. We met Dan Garcia, at Lebec, who told us of seeing one adult Condor, near Lebec, on Saturday 27 July 1963 and what Dan took to be a young Condor, by the absence of white patches under the wings on 29 July 1963. Dan said the bird seen on Monday was sitting near where a dead Deer was later found. This bird had a mottled white under the wings.

Dan Garcia, in answer to our question as to whether he was poisoning many Kangaroo Rats during the poisoning campaign he is now heading, on the El Tejon Ranch, said that on one occasion last week he had picked up 25 dead Rats in the space of a mile travel. He thinks Kangaroo Rats are very thick in population.

Ian and I went to El Tejon Ranch Headquarters, in Lebec, at 8:00 A.M. where we met Henry Melendy who briefed us on his job on El Tejon Ranch and some of the problems he has become ~~acquainted~~ ^{acquainted} with since coming to El Tejon last August 1, 1962. Mr. Melendy spent his youth in San Benito County, California but never saw Condor. He, nevertheless, had heard of Condor and was of the opinion that a Mr. Bacon, who lived in the area near what is now the Pinnacles National Monument, had collected a Condor Egg that was supposed to have been the last egg of Condor collected in that area. Mr. Melendy gave us the names of people whom we can go to for information concerning this Condor Egg as well as anything ~~pertaining~~ pertaining to Condor in the San Benito County area.

Henry Melendy explained to us the system by which El Tejon Ranch manages its hunting of wild game species. The slightly less than 300,000 (three hundred thousand) acres —

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incompassed and owned by Tejon Ranch is divided into several sections each of which are either contracted out to different groups of hunting people or else held for the hunting privileges of stockholders of the Company, Employees of the Company, renters and lessors of Company lands, friends or business associates of the Company, ~~or groups of~~ ^{owners of land} inside the Tejon Ranch ~~boundaries~~ boundaries and those groups or friends who employees - owners and lessors are allowed to bring in with them as guests. Mr. Melendy was very frank in answering our questions. His knowledge of the area and its problems seems quite well developed considering the short time he has been an employee of the Tejon Ranch Company.

It seems evident that Henry Melendy was hired by the Tejon Ranch Company to take over the matter of managing game animals on the ranch property as well as to straighten out and ~~supervise~~ bring under his supervision the hunting privileges on the ranch that had become out of hand through the Company having leased areas of the ranch property to certain groups who in payment for hunting privileges were supposed to police and manage all hunting ~~personnel~~ ^{personal} as well as the game species on the particular areas assigned to their care and use by the Tejon Ranch Company. according to Melendy, this program has not turned out well. Some of the groups, or users, disciplined themselves quite but in the main this program of making each group responsible for managing and policing themselves degraded, in time, to where the Tejon Ranch Co. had to make a change.

The new program that is now in development, ^{under} ~~under~~ the management of Henry Melendy, has returned the responsibility of policing and management to the Tejon Ranch. The use of a particular section of the ranch for hunting, unless an associate of the Ranch Company, now are charged a fee

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The amount of which is intended to make the ^{management} ~~management~~ of hunting on the Ranch, by the Ranch, a self-sustaining part of the ranch operations. Melendy is in hopes, and thinks this operation should be a success.

Henry Melendy said that a large section of the ranch that in past years had been leased for hunting by the California Highway Patrol; had given the most trouble. Not only did they fail in their responsibility of policing their area, but were also disrespectful of game laws and restrictions as per number of hunters that could be on the property ^{at} any given date, by the Tejon Ranch Company. Melendy thinks most deer hunters shoot at any large living animal that they feel belongs to no one.

Kenneth R. Cresswell, a section superintendent of the Kern County Fire Department who handles the operations of this department in the Tejon Ranch and South Kern County area, and who stepped into the Tejon Ranch Company office to pass out signs made by the McCullough Saw Company that ~~stated~~ stressed safety with fires while having, in bold letters, the name of McCullough Saws on the signs or placards, told us he had lost all respect for deer hunters. He said that in the past he hunted deer and enjoyed it, but that with the army of people who now come out to hunt it's not only foolish to go deer hunting on public lands, it is dangerous. Mr. Cresswell ^{stated} ~~quoted~~ "You see, we have this Los Angeles crowd most of whom are drinkers and are just out on a lark. They get filled up on whiskey and want to shoot away their ammunition before returning, so they shoot at anything they see, birds - mammals - rocks, cans and lots of things they can't tell what it is. On private land it's a different type of hunter. They usually need permits, and as such are held responsible for what they do wrong."

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These hunters on private land are not only more respectful but they are also more successful. They know how to hunt.

Ian and I accompanied Henry Melendy, in a Tejon Company four-wheel-drive vehicle over much of the Ranch Property and roads into the back-country of the ranch. He showed us where the State of California is putting in roads in preparation to commencement of construction on a tunnel that will carry Feather River water through the Tehachan mountains and into the Los Angeles basin. This road over which men and equipment will be transported to the tunnel sight, passes up canyons where giant valley oak trees stood, but are now pushed over and being sawed into wood to clear the light-of-way - that in no instance considers the value of these trees. In fact the opposite seems the case.

Mr. Melendy told us of an effort, by the State of California to declare the roadway into the tunnel-site a public thoroughfare over which the public could ~~be~~ not be prevented from traveling. Were this the case, one of the last privately managed feeding grounds of the Condor would be nullified.

Trespass

Melendy also described the problem of ~~trespass~~ ^{trespass} on lands owned by Tejon Ranch from outside hunters. This remains one of the major problems in managing and controlling hunting on the ranch property under his care. Last hunting season he ~~attended~~ ^{arrested} more than 15 people for being unlawfully trespassing on Tejon Ranch property as well as warning and evicting numerous people who he thought sufficiently responsible that they would return on the property to hunt again.

While eating our lunch near the spring of water in the canyon 1/2 mile below White Oak Lodge,

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on the Antelope side of Tejon Ranch, we heard the report of a rifle in the general vicinity of the White Oak Lodge. Mr. Melendy thought the shot to be fired by some individual who was practicing for deer season. In that deer season does not open in the Eastern Mts. of Kern County for more than a month now, it would seem likely this was the case. We saw an adult Golden Eagle flying high to the East and North of where we ate lunch. Another Golden Eagle was observed sitting in an Oak tree near the ranch road over which we passed enroute to the Antelope Valley side of the mountains.

Predators

Henry Melendy seems quite concerned about the way predatory animals are indiscriminately destroyed. I feel certain he will be favorable to some thoughtfulness towards large birds such as Eagles and Condor and, in fact, may develop into a champion for the rights of these birds to survive.

I will review this association with Mr. Melendy from time to time. He is now in hopes I can let him have the photograph of a Condor with which he could better become acquainted with the bird in identification. It should the opportunity come his way. This I will do in the near future.

Henry Melendy came to the El Tejon Ranch Company from a position of Farm Advisor in the Fresno area. He is a graduate of University of California at Davis and the University of Idaho where he took a course in Forestry according to him - the philosophy taught by the Agronomy department at U.C. at Davis and the Forestry department at the U. of Idaho are diametrically opposite to one another. Melendy leans towards the agronomy way of thinking. That ^{Nature} ~~Nature~~ is not as complex as Forestry would like to make one think and that man can modify most environments -

Continued -

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to suit his needs without worrying about the adverse consequences his actions may have on the ecology of a given area. He thinks brush-burning can be carried out in most areas with greater production resulting in both grass forage and ~~better~~ groundwater. He ridicules the thinking of the Forest Service that brushlands ^{could} ~~save~~ water. "Why it's silly," he stated, "to think that brush conserve water when all the time it is using up water as fast as it is available. When a wet winter and more water is available the brush species take on more growth, thereby using up all the extra water." I make note of Mr. Melendy's thinking in this matter in that it is the same held by those whose activities would leave nothing for Condor to survive in, or on. I would term this thinking of Melendy's as being that of exploitation with little thought of ecological factors involved. Nevertheless, it will be interesting to follow his approach to Condor preservation and the philosophy accompanying an act of saving a vanishing species.

Map
Grade Valley

P-222

california condor

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I left home at 3:30 p.m., heading for Lockwood Valley, Ventura County, Calif. Stopped at Fire Guard Camp at Turnoff to Thorn Meadows. C.L. MARSH, director in charge of a Pumper (fire truck) told me that lots of cars, bearing hunters, had already passed by heading for Grade Valley, Thorn Meadows, and Mutau Flats. Mr. MARSH also said that he was stationed at Grade Camp only for this weekend. The policy of the Forest Service in this area, in order to combat the high potential of forest fires during this weekend, is to scatter its crews over a wide area in order that someone will be in the general area where any fire should start, with a few men and equipment, to contain it until larger forces of help can arrive.

Driving south on Thorn Meadows road I met Richard Alves of the Sheriff's Department of Ventura County, who with a helper planned on going through from this evening until Sunday evening without letup in patrol and without sleep. Alves expected much trouble and harassment to law enforcement agencies brought on by the incoming numbers of deer hunters. Alves offered to keep on the alert for any information he might come upon relative to deer-hunters and condors. At Grade Valley Campground I met Clifton Moyer, whose normal job in the forest service is Range Conservation technician, patrolling the campgrounds trying to establish order among the hunting groups who were now commencing to arrive in increasing numbers and were searching for spots to camp inside the confines of the designated campgrounds. Many of these groups were of families and friends; men, women, and children of all ages and descriptions. Their camping ~~paraphernalia~~ ~~paraphernalia~~ ~~paraphernalia~~ paraphernalia was likewise. Many with Jeeps in tow behind cars. Many in pickup trucks with one, two, or three trail bikes or tote boxes loaded in the back. Many had trailer houses. Some -

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Condor 7

Condor 3

Condor 2

deer hunters

do not shoot everything

only the bare necessities, i.e. Gun, ammo, sleeping Bag, and a few victuals. All were in a state of frenzy, dash, hurrying, trying to get ahead of the pack. Clifton Moyer seemed most unprepared to handle such a situation and gave indication of not relishing his job of the next two days.

Clifton Moyer told me of seeing seven Condor over a Mountain on 19 July 1963 and ~~saw~~ ^{saw} two on Frazier Mountain

one day and three on another day, both within the last

weeks. These records had all been turned in to Jack Gains a drop-box at either Ojai or Santa Barbara Forest Stations. Moyer also said he would be on the lookout for any information that would have bearing on the relations between Condor and Deer-hunters.

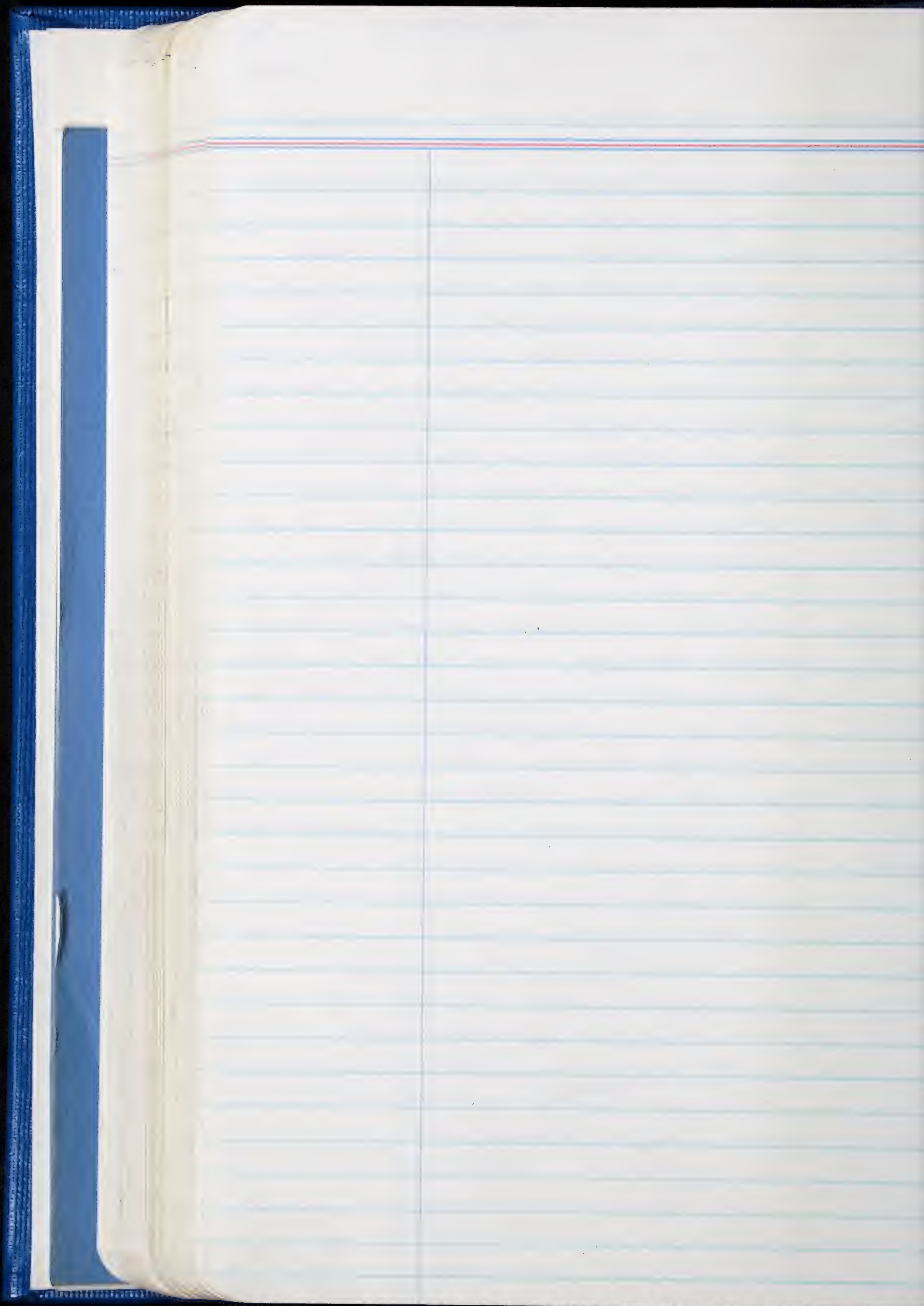
It was approaching sunset as I drove towards Thorn Meadows and met Howard Beazel who mans the fire camp at Grade Valley Turnoff from Lockwood Valley road, and who was returning to his camp after having packed ~~supplies~~ ^{supplies} during the day, via packmule, to the Thorn Point Lookout. Beazel told me that he did not think Deer-hunters would shoot at Condor. He thought the average hunter who came to the Grade ~~Valley~~ Valley-Thorn Meadows, Mutau Flats are ~~to be~~ quite responsible and observant of the rules and laws.

Howard Beazel told me that during recent years when he was stationed on Thorn Point Lookout he saw Condor regularly. He thought Condor flying northward from the Sespe region would pass over Thorn Point heading in the direction of Frazier Mountain. He said that on several ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions} when sighting Condor flying from Thorn Point in the direction of Frazier ~~mountain~~ mountain that he would telephone the man at Frazier Mountain Lookout and tell him a Condor was headed in this direction. At times the Frazier Mountain Lookout man would acknowledge seeing some of these Condor as they passed.

(Condor 7)
Not entered

over his area. Mr. Beazel had not seen condor from his station in Lockwood Valley.

At dusk, while cooking my supper at Thorn Meadows Camp, two young fellows from Burbank came in driving a Ford pickup with two New Honda ~~Trail~~ Trail Bikers in the back of the truck. They were very discouraged in that while entering the Forest an inspection of their two Hondas proved they did not have proper spark arrestors attached. So the two machines were ordered left in the truck until proper mufflers should be attached, so long as they were in the National Forest. This caused these two young men to be somewhat ^{sniffy} ~~sniffy~~ towards the forest service personnel as well as Governor Brown, who they accused of passing such a law on ~~motor~~ Trail Bikes. As darkness approached I overheard these two young fellows conversing about defending the Honda's, should anyone come to steal them in the night. They decided to sleep in their ~~bed~~ bags close-by the pickup truck in order to safeguard the two Hondas. This campground being too crowded I drove back one half mile and rolled my bed in a draw one hundred feet from the road. Cars and pickups came and returned on this road all night. No shooting heard this evening.



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About daybreak automobiles, Jeeps - pickups and Tote-gotes came, went, and took to the forest and hunters could be seen moving in every ^{locality} ~~locality~~. I remained in my bag until sunrise, partially because it was quite cool and partially as a protective measure against being shot in the light of early dawn. One of the hunters in a pickup load, that passed by, spotted me in my bag and said in loud tones to his fellow hunters - "that feller says to Hell with the Deer!"

very few shots were heard in the general area of Thorn Meadows before 7:30 A.M. After this time shooting increased until one could no longer count the number of shots being fired. Hunters commenced to return to the roadway soon after 7:30 A.M. I hiked to the top of a prominent peak that commanded a general good view of the area. From this point hunters could be seen moving about below, talking among themselves, and shooting at targets. Some shots were heard on the slopes of ~~Thorn~~ Point. I would judge these were from hunters who had hiked some distance from the road and had probably put up a Buck Deer. I could hear the muttering of Tote-gotes throughout the forest below but none came up the point where I sat. Loose decomposed granite soil made hiking up steep areas difficult. I doubt that any mechanized vehicle could negotiate the steep areas in these mountains.

Before 8:30 A.M. vehicles were seen to pick up hunting parties presumably to return them to camp. Hunters were seen working out areas within 100 yards of the road. Two middle-aged men came along the road, on Honda ~~motor~~ Trail Bikes. One dressed in yellow, the other in red. Each carried a carbine rifle slung over his ^{shoulder} ~~back~~. They moved along at a pace that a fast walking person would outdo. They would stop frequently and scan the roadside areas with binoculars. Their movement along this road, that was practically lined with hunters, appeared as if one were watching a satirical skit—

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by Buffoons, on hunting deer. I had never before observed humans in this sort of a situation. It was difficult to rationalize their behavior.

I returned to the pickup at 10:30 AM. and drove to the road that leads out towards Mutau Flats. Two Game Wardens were at this gate inspecting the guns and hunting licenses of all hunters ~~passing~~ ^{coming} back in their cars. Deer had been recorded so far this morning by two wardens. Soon after I arrived at this point two Game Wardens, who were exceptionally busy checking passing hunters, came upon one fellow, who to me seemed quite slow thinking, that had a loaded cartridge in the barrel of his rifle. The officers ordered him to drive his car to the side of the road and he proceeded for unlawful possession of a loaded gun in his car on a public road. Not wanting to further witness the humiliation of this unfortunate fellow further I drove to Mutau Flats and parked my pickup among the vehicles of hunters, who were still hunting or of those who were already returned from hunting and were resting or having lunch. A group of four fellows of Mexican descent, with whom I talked, had hunted but saw no deer. One of these fellows had talked to a boy on a Tote-gate who claimed to have shot a Buzzard. None of these men had seen any large hawks or Buzzards. Another group of men from ^{Los Angeles} ~~San Jose~~ had seen no deer, Eagles or Buzzards. One man from Bakersfield had seen no deer, but he told me of seeing about twelve Condors on a hillside across the highway from Fort Tejon about five years ago. He knew Condors were protected. He had hunted in the Lockwood Valley area for 20 years but had never seen Condors except on the above ^{occasion} ~~occasion~~.

Buzzard Shot

Condor
Condor (2)

Returning towards Lockwood Valley I picked up a hunter. Another Mexican, who, upon being asked if he had seen

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any large birds like Buzzards or Eagles said he did not see any for if he had he would have taken a shot at them. Stopped at Grade Valley Camp, three deer had been brought into this camp by noon. about 300 hunters were out of this camp.

at Grade Valley Camp I chatted with six young fellows from Los Angeles who had hunted this morning without seeing a buck deer. I told them that I had been out and that I did not even see a Buzzard to shoot at. These fellows informed me that had I shot a Buzzard, or any hawk or Owl, that I could have been arrested for all hawks and Owls are protected. Continuous shooting went on about Grade Valley Camp during the hour I spent there. Two young fellows from Los Angeles who with their wives and small children were camped in Grade Valley Camp, had, the night previous, hiked to the top of a nearby mountain and hunted from there this morning without success. They would have shot a buzzard or an Eagle had they seen one. so they admitted.

From Grade Valley I drove out to Lockwood Valley and on to, Lake of the Woods, in Cuddy Valley, where the U.S. Forest Service and California Division of Fish and Game had an information station for deer hunters as well as a place where ~~the~~ hunting ~~licenses~~ ^{licenses} and Deer tags, could be purchased, and validated. David Zeiner of Game Manager 1 of Region 5, Calif. Fish and Game Biologist was on hand ~~aging~~ ^{aging} all the deer that hunters brought in to be validated. A continuous ~~the~~ crowd of onlookers and hunters were about this station most of the time. a Bill Harper, of U.S. Forest Service, and who, in the beginning, was the Condor warden for the Audubon Society and the U.S. —

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service at Fillmore, was at this check station. He mentioned having met Jan and stated that Jan had mentioned asking the Forest Service office in ~~Fillmore~~ Santa Barbara if later in the fall they would allow him to accompany us on an inspection trip of the nests he knew of in the Fillmore Sespe area. He stated that he would be glad to help us out in the way if permission could be obtained from his ^{superior} ~~superior~~.

Game warden Fisher, of Taft, showed up at the station. He said he would keep his eye out for Condor and pass on to me any information he might come across that would be of help to us in the Condor study. While I was at this station, at 2:30 p.m., a fire was reported at La Panza, in San Luis Obispo County and word was received that a hunter had been killed near Reyes Creek in Lockwood Valley.

I drove to Chuchupate Ranger Station where all was in a turmoil due to the La Panza Fire so I drove on to the top of Frazier Mountain and met Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun who man the lookout station atop Frazier for the U.S. Forest Service. The following is a duplicate of the Condor report they sent in to Headquarters for July 1963.

Condor

- 7/9/63 = one = headed N.E.
- 7/11/63 = one = " S.W.
- 7/17/63 = Two = " N.W.
- 7/19/63 = one = " S
- 7/27/63 = Three = " N.W.
- 7/29/63 = Three = " S.W.

Mr. Calhoun said the Condors in passing his Lookout usually circle in the area near his post and at times approach quite close. On one ^{occasion} ~~occasion~~ last year during deer hunting season he watched a Condor passing quite low along the southeast flank of

Shoreline Condor

2. 324

I watched a red-tailed hawk circle up above the mountain rim about one quarter mile southwest of the Frazier mountain lookout. From the way it was blown —

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about one could see that strong currents of air rise up along the rim of this mountain.

Shooting continued until sunset and one shot heard well after dark. I camped among the hunters at the spillover camp, that is only used when the camps fill up. Additional hunters came throughout the night. Two buck deer hung in this spillover camp evening out of about 200 hunters.

found -

illegal shooting

In evening I talked to a hunter who had seen a dead doe on top of the mountain about 400 yards from the road. It had been shot in the neck. Another hunter said he had found a spike buck in the forest that had been shot through the heart.

Radios blared out ^a the play by play description of the Los Angeles Dodger baseball game while children and dogs made the woods ring with screams and howls. The evening wore on. I went to sleep before it subsided.

Hunters were not out as early as yesterday morning. Shooting did not commence until 7:15 A.M. when the first shot seemed to break the ice and signal the commencement of shooting from all points of the compass. Some hunters walked out into the woods from camp while other left the camp in cars-pickups. Tote-gates and one man with two teen-age sons went out towards the mountain top in a large dump truck.

At 8:15 A.M. a large, dark complected man who told me he was a Mexican, but was born in Texas, had ridden up the mountain with a motorized hunter who had left this fellow off at overflow camp from where he intended to hunt down to his camp. He said that among the five men in his camp they had brought in two bucks yesterday. This fellow had hunted deer in Texas in his youth and now, after coming to California eight years ago, continues his interest in deer hunting here. This fellow knows the game laws and would not shoot a condor were one to come close to him. He held little respect for hunters who shoot unlawful deer or other animals.

Another hunter who returned to camp by 7:30 A.M. and who had bagged one of the three bucks brought into camp yesterday, said he liked to shoot at rabbits and hawks. He claimed to have seen a dead spike buck in the woods this morning.

I drove to the top of Frazier Mountain and took photographs of the tops of the Tehachapi mountains, ~~the~~ Cummings mountain and the upper one quarter of Breckenridge mountain striking up through the blanket of smog that lay thick and yellowish on the San Joaquin valley —

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floor. The Antelope Valley was comparatively free of smog but the Los Angeles basin was well socked in. Looking North into the San Joaquin valley, we wondered how high flying Condor could see food on the valley floor.

The man with the two teen-age sons drove up the Lookout and inquired of me where the deer were. The large dump-truck in which they rode came and bounced over the ^{rocks} ~~rocks~~ as they passed on a spot ahead where I told them much shooting had been going on since I arrived on the mountain this morning. Another man drove up in a large station wagon and parked near where I stood looking through my binoculars for large birds in flight. He had two companions, all were armed to the teeth and dressed in the most brilliant colors. Revolvers with pearl handles were strapped to their hips, a beautifully wide bone handled knife hung from a belt that also held a hatchet in red leather case and a score of 30-06 Rifle shells each tucked in a ripple of leather that held them, and a gleaming compass case finished out the accouterment strapped to the belts of these hunters. The man that drove the car had a new ^{pair} ~~set~~ of Bushnell wide angle field glasses that he insisted I look through. I will say they were very good. From the looks of their clothing and shoes I doubt this trio ever left the car for any distance to hunt. They seemed to be enjoying themselves very well. They drove away to find a deer. A young fellow with his wife and two small children drove up and asked if it would be alright if they were up on the Lookout railing to take pictures. I informed him that I had nothing to do with the Lookout station but that I felt they would be welcome to visit the Lookout.

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The man and the two children went up the stairs to the deck of the Lookout Station while the woman stayed and talked with me about the problems created by deer hunters in the National Forests. Both she and her husband felt that the greatest good could be derived by closing all National Forests to hunting. They thought that were there as much time and money spent on teaching the public the esthetic values of the National Forests as are spent on selling sporting goods and convincing the public of the values of hunting that more people would get more out of the use of their own lands with no problem involved whereby regimentation of the masses would be unnecessary, as is not the case with hunters. These people would work for doing away with all hunting were this necessary to safeguard the esthetic values of the National Forests. They left the area at 9:45 A.M.

Condor Imm

I maintained a constant vigil of the air over Frazier Mountain seeing nothing in the way of large soaring birds until 11:00 A.M. when a Condor was seen southwest of the Lookout Tower about one half mile away. When first seen, this Condor was rising in circles above the west ridge of the mountain rim. The swiftly rising air currents soon carried this bird two thousand feet or more above the top of Frazier Mountain from where it ~~had~~ headed north in a flex glide, passing a bit to the west of the Lookout Tower ^{as it passed} ~~on its way~~. From where I was, as this Condor passed overhead, I could see it was a young bird with mottled plumage on underside of wings. Much ~~similar~~ similar to the plumage of the young bird I photographed and took ~~foot~~ points of in the San Juan River this spring. The young Condor continued in a direct route northward as far as I could follow it with my 9 power glasses. It seemed to be holding its -

-Continued-

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elevation easily. Should this bird have continued on the course it was following when I last saw it it should have passed over the arvin, kern County area a seven thousand feet above the floor of the San Joaquin valley and move into either the Bear Mountain or Breckenridge mountains near their summits. A slight west wind blew over Frazier mountain as the Condor made its flight. Should Condor hold this elevation in passing over the south San Joaquin valley area, they be very difficult to observe when passing this area.

I went to Lookout Tower and found that neither Mr nor Mrs. Calhoun had observed the young Condor as it flew past their tower. It is doubtful that these people see Condors unless they come quite close to the tower. Probably a good bird observer would see Condor over this mountain much more frequently than do the Calhouns.

The Calhouns said they would ^{purposefully} ~~purposefully~~ watch for Condor flying where hunters might shoot at them. I left top of Frazier mountain at 12:00 noon, lunched at Spillover Camp where most hunters were moving out. I talked with many of the unsuccessful hunters who did not appear discouraged in any way and were already making plans on returning next deer season.

into on hunters →

I saw little drinking of ~~at~~ alcoholic beverages by deer hunters in camp or in the forests. The hunters were a friendly lot, generally. Lack of any force to help these people seemed evident. Some attempt to regiment them as to camping ^{areas} ~~points~~, Camp permits and loaded rifles in cars was evident; but no instance did I see attempts by public officials to educate these people as to their

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responsibilities in the use of these public lands. In talking to these people it becomes evident that they have practically no understanding of the complicated process by which a forest must be managed in order that it remain productive of the necessities which they demand. They all seem well versed in all the material things their privileges, as citizens of this country, guarantee them, but I doubt any of them have ever been briefed on the necessity of accepting their obligations and responsibilities in these matters, if these privileges of enjoying the National Forests are to remain guaranteed for the future. Among these people who come to hunt are many intelligent and responsible persons. ~~People~~ With proper educational processes they could be developed into a much more respectable group.

One wonders if the Forest Service is doing enough of the right things in educating the Forest using public. There seems to be a general disrespectful attitude among forest service personnel towards those who use the National forests and with whom the forest service personnel come in contact with, and whom they must serve or at least put up with. At times the thinking, or attitude, of the forest ^{service} people towards those who come to use the forests, seems to reach a point where one wonders if they do not feel that the public should be ~~be~~ prohibited from using these lands and that it be left up to the forest service to manage and use forest lands. One also sees the influence of economics well entrenched in forest service use and planning. Ever busy to protect their interests, economic users of the National Forest lands do little to educate the general public in any phase of forest usage except to point up the urgency of protecting timber and showing the things they produce from the —

resources coming from forest lands.

I bring these observations up because of their importance to Condor welfare. For unless something is done immediately to develop a more responsible attitude among the people who come to the Las Padres and National forests ~~that~~ within the range of Condor, there will not be long that condors ~~will~~ ^{will} go out. Most hunters that I talked with yesterday and today would shoot at Condor. There is no doubt but that dead deer will furnish much of the food for Condor during the next three months. This will increase their vulnerability to being shot.

Stopping at the check station in Lake of the Woods, inquired as to the disposition of land use operation that was going on immediately adjacent ~~to~~ ^{to} and above the Chuchupate Campground that is located about one-half mile above Chuchupate Ranger Station on the road to the top of Frazier Mountain. This operation consisted of the area in question being stripped off with bulldozers, the brush, debris, and topsoil being shoved into the draws, the ridges or swales being left bare with the underburden of rock exposed on the surface. I was told this was part of a development being done by Mrs. Cuddy who owns much property in the Cuddy Valley and adjoining forests. If successful this can nullify portions of the southern range of Condor as a habitat.

Condor



I was told by forest service personnel at the check station in Cuddy Valley that Game Warden Fisher of Tuft, Calif. had left word that he had seen a Condor on Frazier today.

Shooting

Three young hunters on Mt. Pinos said they had not even seen buzzards to shoot at while hunting there for deer.

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Received letter today from Mr. Burrell Reed of Caliente, Kern County, California. Mr. Reed lives in Caliente Wash about 17 miles up stream from the settlement of Caliente and across the wash from Sand Canyon store.

Mr. Reed writes that he saw 6 Condor on the Caliente cut off about four miles west of Caliente and on Tejon Ranch Property. When seen there were three birds (Condor) on the ground and three in the air. This was either on July 1st or July 8th, ¹⁹⁶³ Mr. Reed could not remember for sure which it was. The birds on the ground took off as Mr. Reed passed.

Mr. Reed saw Condor on Tejon Property at least two other times, once in 1952.

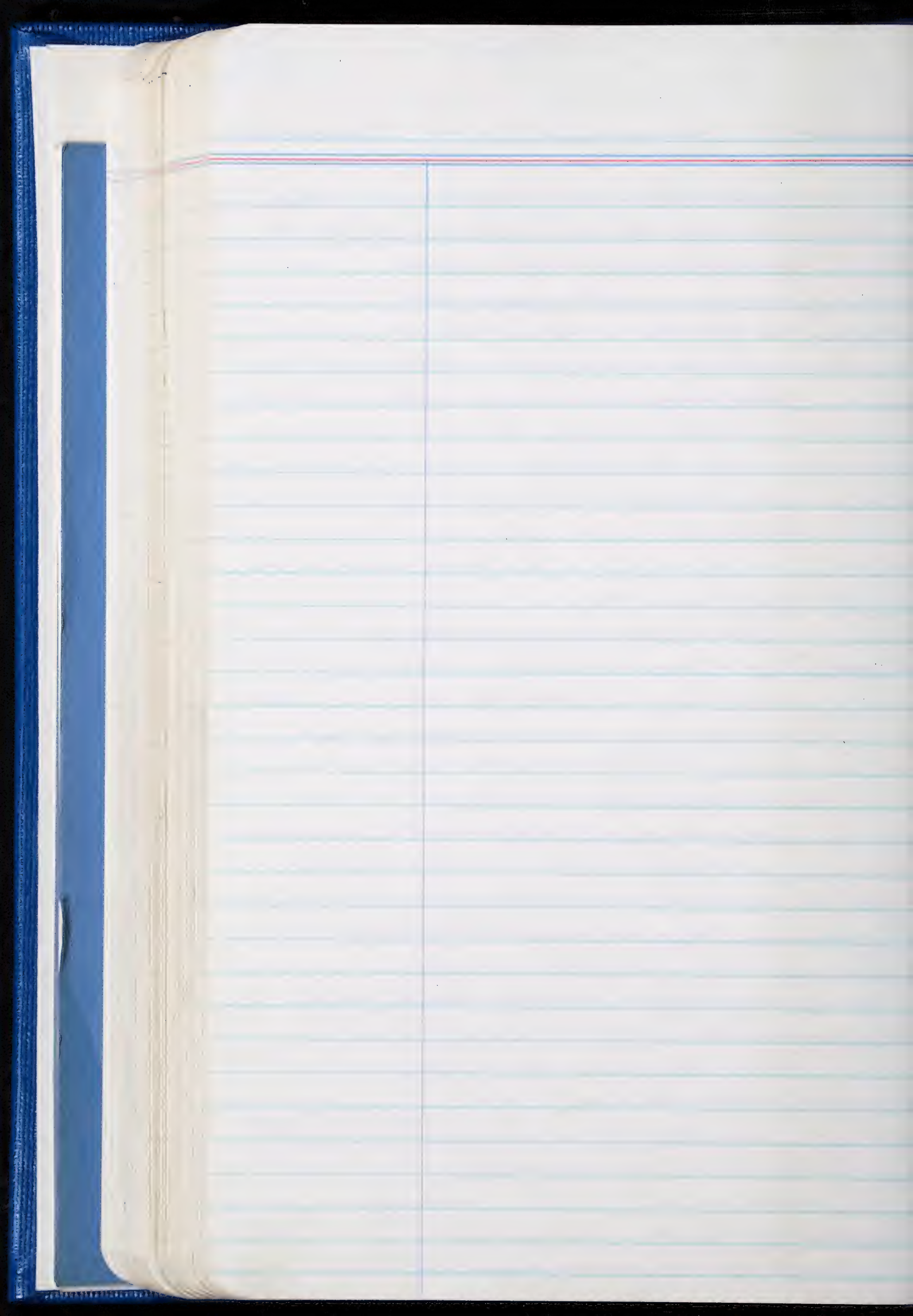
The following is of interest from Mr. Reed's letter.

"We also found a dead one (Condor) at that time (1952) and had an opportunity to examine it. There is no mistaking a buzzard for a Condor once you know how to distinguish them." This notation I will look into for more definite records.

Mr. Reed continues, "In the late 30's I saw about three in Menagerie Canyon 8 miles east of Caliente."

"In 1953 while at a neighbors place a lone Condor flew over, and I really had to talk to keep him from shooting it."

I will try to see Burrell Reed tomorrow evening.



It was cloudy, sultry, and trying to shower as I drove to Bakersfield by 8:30 A.M. Met Dan Garcia who recorded having seen Two Condor on August 2 and 4 Condor on August 2, 1963 in canyon to east of highway 99 about one mile south of Fort Tejon, Kern County, Calif. I failed to get the time of day these birds were seen. The 4 Condor on the 2nd were heading due south and the two Condor on the ~~1st~~^{2nd} were circling above the Cattle Corral of Tejon Ranch.

Dan Garcia said he had finished the squirrel poisoning in the Tejon Ranch area and was, this morning, going to see Ben Beasley who is in charge of squirrel poison operations for the County of Kern Agricultural ~~Commissioner's~~^{Commissioner's} office, and find out if there are plans for more poisoning. Dan Garcia thought this would conclude squirrel poisoning for this year.

I visited Opal Grimes at the U.S. Forest Service office in Bakersfield leaving with her a copy of the Condor Monograph which she had previously stated wishing to study. Opal Grimes said no new observations of Condor had come into the office from the lookouts and Forest Service personnel since I was last in. She did mention that Mrs. Morrison from the Breckenridge Lookout had turned in seeing Condor some two weeks ago but upon advice from Helen King of the Oak Flat Lookout, thought Mrs. Morrison's observations to lack knowledgeable recognition of the birds, and be therefore unworthy of publication as factual material. I will satisfy myself on this point when I next visit the Morrisons on Breckenridge Mountain.

Leaving Bakersfield at 10:30 A.M. I drove to mouth of Caliente Creek where Martin Ansolabehere said neither he nor his shepherds had observed Condor. He again mentioned never having seen Condor about the level area at the mouth of Caliente Creek. Mr. Ansolabehere said they had not even seen buzzards which is unusual, he thought. In former

under

not known

Condor
observation
entered - 1

0 Buzzards

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Years great flocks of buzzards would come to feed on sheep that had died. Ansolebe here questioned me as to what I thought would bring about this decrease in the population of buzzards. I declined giving an answer on the grounds that perhaps ~~later~~ ^{later} on we could shed more light on the subject -

I Lunched at White Wolf Corral of Tejon Ranch. Several hundred heifers, both ~~year~~ weaners and yearlings, had just been placed in the fields of Tejon Ranch. There are on either side of the highway that passes through White Wolf. Heavy showers of rain fell at midday. Rainwater ran in the trails and ditches. The showers let up by 1:00 PM, in the White Wolf area.

Jack ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen}, a buckaroo for Tejon Ranch came with a truck with hay for the cattle. He has been with Tejon Ranch for two and one half years. appears to be a late resident of Texas, or Oklahoma. He lives with his wife, in a house on Tejon Ranch property, that is situated among the grove of Tamarisk trees three miles due East of Ar Kern County, California. Mr. ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen} does not know Condor. Will be on the lookout for them and report any ~~large~~ ^{large} birds he sees to us.

Curtis ~~Jones~~ Jones whose normal occupation with the Tejon Ranch is mechanic, and whose place of employment is usually at the old headquarters in Tejon Canyon, told me he saw a flock of large birds on the ground up the Canyon behind Tejon headquarters in Tejon Canyon several years ago and thinking them to be turkeys rushed to headquarters to get a gun with which to shoot a few of them for the table. Upon meeting Walter ~~F~~ Fieguth enroute, was told these birds are not turkeys but Condor and are protected by law. Mr. Curtis said that Walter Fieguth had been rushed to the hospital in Bakersfield three or four days ago and was

shooting

Patience

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he is still confined with critical burns about the chest and arms suffered while working with electric wires. Mr. Curtis thought some man from the University of California had been at the Tejon Ranch within the last week seeking information on Condor and had gone with Walter Fieguth towards Lebec to look for Condor. We will have to find out if this man is not impersonating a representative of the University of California and is being accorded privileges and help regarding Condor that may not be in the best interests of Condor Preservation.

Driving up the ~~Tehachapi~~ Tehachapi grade on highway 466 even though no heavy rain had fallen in route the Tehachapi creek was running full of water. As I neared the ~~town of~~ Town of Tehachapi I could see from where the water was coming. Heavy rains had just passed the area west of Tehachapi and were now centered south and east of the town. All creeks, canyons and gulches were running full and on the bare overgrazed hillsides the rainwater ran off as if these surfaces were oiled or covered with roofing. Highway 466, to the East of Tehachapi, was deep in water. The fields to the west and south were a quagmire of mud and debris. The herds of sheep stood in tight groups as the water ran under them. The shepherds gazed out upon the downpour from the door of their Trailer cabins.

3:00 P.M., returning from Tehachapi, where I found the weather non-conducive to Condor, and Condor information, I visited with Jerry and Phyllis McCarthy who had seen no Condor of late over their ^{Beaumont} ~~Beaumont~~ Ranch. Mr. McCarthy again stressed his thinking that Condor are much less common in his area than was the case ten years ago.

Rain had closed the main Caliente Wash road leading from Caliente to Sand Canyon store forcing me to take the Lion Trail.

do you know?

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Road to Walker Basin ~~thence~~ thence down Caliente Wash to the home of Burrell Reed who lives across Caliente Wash from Sand Canyon Store. ~~Burrell Reed is a~~

Burrell Reed is a native of the Caliente area and shows a ~~great~~ ^{strong} interest in the outdoors in general. He has never seen condor in the upper reaches of the Caliente Wash drainage. He did see one condor at menagerie camp that drains the east side of Caliente Wash about 8 miles river from Caliente. Mr. Reed said he found the dead condor he referred to in his letter of ~~August~~ July 31, 1963 to me, the Tejon Ranch property known as the Rock pile to the west of Caliente about 8 miles in May of 1952 or 1953. He could not remember if the dead condor had a red head or not. He also thought this was about the time the squirrel poisoning was usually done in that area.

dead condor?
recorded before

Burrell Reed thought Eighty Percent of all deer hunters would shoot at a condor should it either light or fly by them within gunshot range. Mr. Reed would include ranchers and landowners within this group.

Reed thinks that improved methods of cattle and sheep grazing had led to less carrion for condor and buzzards. ~~as was~~

This, he thinks, has led to a decline in the condor population.

Looking at the range country of the Caliente Wash drainage I find it hard to see any improvement in range usage. No forage remains on the hills that this afternoon was washed clean of any cover by the heavy showers. The cattle do not look too bad yet but this is only mid-summer. Six or seven months could pass before new grass comes. Unless the cattle are moved out of these hills in the next two months many of them ~~will~~ will perish.

(food notes)

Overuse of the range triggers many factors that promote carrion as condor food. Deer compete with cattle and sheep. Malnutrition makes possible the spread and

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virulency of many diseases that offer no problems on well balanced ranges. Burrell Reed thinks the cattle disease that takes so many young unborn cattle in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and known as Foothill Abortion, is a result of poor range condition.

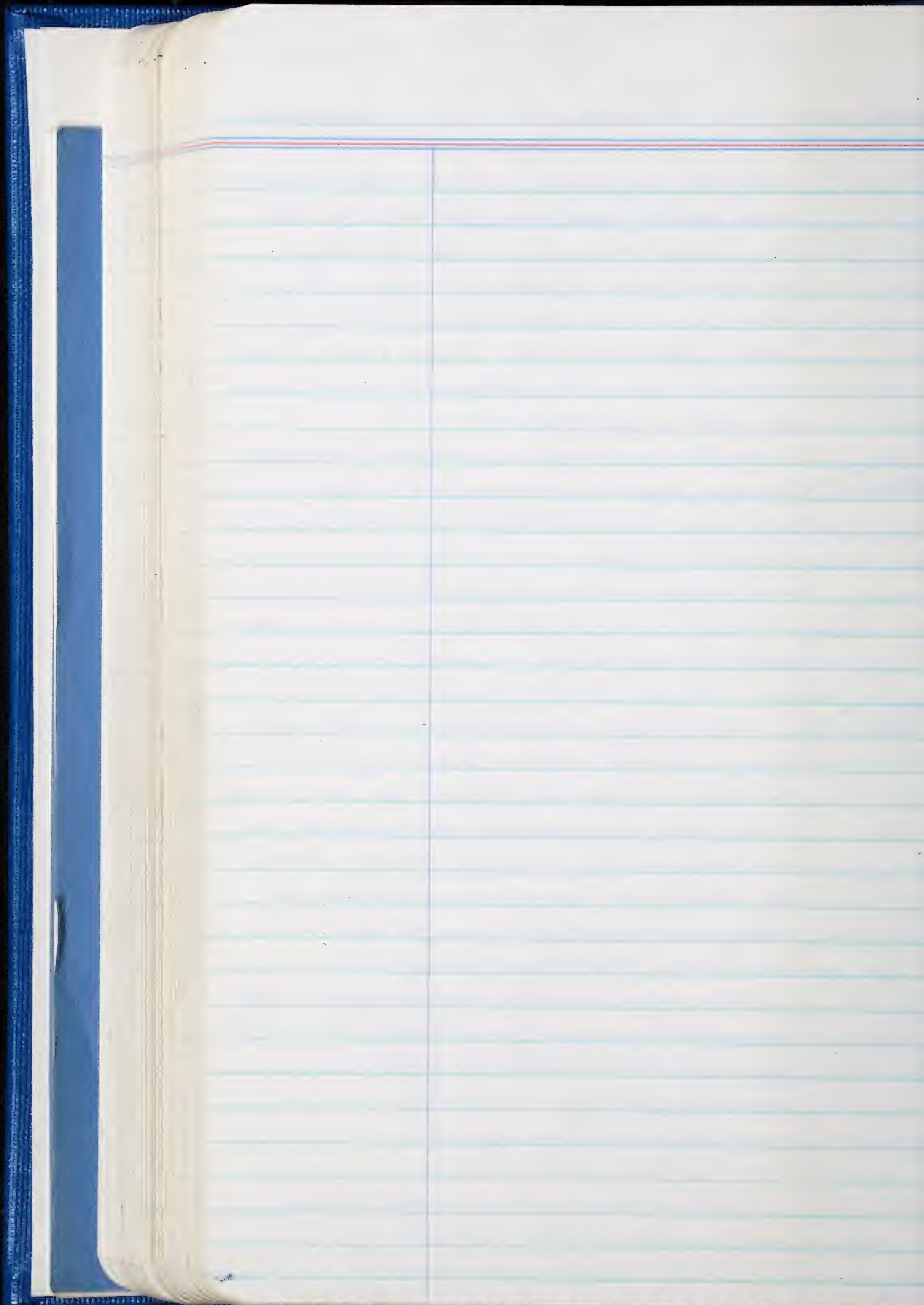
Returning through Walker basin in the late evening I saw, and heard, a pair of Golden Eagle near the pass between Walker basin and Caliente Wash.

Walker Rankin saw Condor in Walker Basin about 1931.

Condor There were 13 Condor came at this time and fed on a dead heifer to the north of the Rankin Ranch house. The Condor left the bones of this carcass clean of any meat, and pulled outside the hide. These were the only Condor that Mr. Walker Rankin ever saw in the Walker basin, even though he has lived over 75 years here in the basin.

Condor About 15 years ago Walker Rankin saw a large flock of Condor in the rock-pile field of Tejon Ranch about five miles west of Caliente. He thought there could have been fifty Condor in this gathering. Again, this rockpile field of the Tejon ranch seems to attract Condor. Is it that more people pass this Rock-pile field and therefore see Condor that frequent other areas as often, or, is it that something attracts Condor to this particular area.

I camped at the mouth of Caliente Wash, one quarter mile south of old 466 highway. The Caliente was still running lots of water most of which was coming from the Tehachapi area.



At 2:15 A.M. an automobile, with lights on, stopped on the old 466 highway about one quarter mile from where I had camped, and commenced shooting some light caliber gun. I could not make out what was being shot at but did see two people moving ~~out~~ in about in the beam of the lights. After shooting 12 or 15 times the car moved on. At 2:45 A.M. ~~headed~~ another automobile heading towards Bakersfield, the car earlier had been traveling ^{where} eastward, stopped near ~~where~~ ^a car had stopped earlier and shot several times from a small caliber rifle. Again two people were seen in the beam of the headlights. At about 2:50 A.M. this car left in the direction of Bakersfield.

The day dawned fair and cool. I was at the home of John Roper, in Eldale, at 7:05 A.M. where I followed him to the ranch property of his family that is situated in the drainage of the Poso Creek and in the foothill area known as Rancharia about 15 miles to the Northeast of Bakersfield. Mr. Roper opened locked gates and introduced me to the ranch properties on which he runs cattle, and over which, ~~last~~ ^{last} week, he saw two condor on two separate days.

John Roper showed me the mesa on which Dr. Elliot McClure had photographed 13 condor about 14 years ago, and also the general area where ^{on April 15, 1949} ~~some 15 years~~ ago. Roper had seen 26 condor feeding on a dead cow.

John Roper has not seen any sizable groups of condor in the last ten years. He had no recollection of ever having seen a dead condor. He thinks the deer population throughout the grass-oak woodland areas of the West Sierra Nevada country would reach an average of six to the section. He finds dead fawn deer quite regularly and buck deer also. These deer having died during month when hunting could not be blamed - six deer to the section ^{48 acres} would

Condor

Condor

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Condor

Food

Food

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- Food -

be a population of ~~216~~¹¹⁶ deer to every Township, or 9600 deer within a 40 mile square area that could be well within the ~~range~~ daily range of a feeding condor. population of 9600 deer would ~~likely~~^{likely} furnish, on an average more than one dead deer per day. Probably under ordinary conditions, a condor could locate a dead deer within two days, within a 40 mile square area. With ~~done~~^{done} and other wild mammals furnishing a fairly stable supply of carrion, it is doubtful that condor would be experiencing any food shortages at any season, through the foothills of the West Sierra Nevada Mountains.

- Food -

John Roger left to care for a sick Bull at 9:00 A.M. after advising me to watch the carcass of a cow that had died and been dragged to a swale about 1/4 mile north of the house where Mrs. , a sister in law of Mr. Rogers and who had been doctoring the cow in question for two months before it finally died. This being the case it is doubtful that much meat would be left on the carcass after it had been sick for so long. It is doubtful that buzzards, or condor, would find this carcass tempt in Mr. Roger, before leaving, told me of the gentleness of 13 condor that Dr. Elliot McClure had photographed. Thirteen of these condor had alighted in an Oak Tree and remained in this tree while Dr. McClure took pictures of them. Mr. Roger has driven to within 100 ft. of condor on different occasions in his car. ~~he has~~^{Roger has} Not seen condor at close range for ten years.

Condor Info.

Only young condor ~~seen~~^{seem to} trust the close approach of humans now. I have not been able to get closer than 250 yards to a feeding ~~adult~~^{adult} condor this year and on most occasions, condor have flown when approached within one half mile by a car, or by a human, in open.

I drove up the Rattlesnake ~~Grade~~ Grade, Towards Oak flat and Greenhorn mountain stopping at the Ranch home of Glenn Record who was in the process of putting a pump on a new well that had just been drilled in their yard. Glenn Record thinks condor are more plentiful now than they have ever been. He said he had seen more condor, at one time, in the last ten years than there is supposed to be living. It here seems that many of these people have read a newspaper report where someone was supposed to have stated that there are less than 25 condor living. Young Record claims to have seen more than that number within the last ten years.

Dead Condor

Young Glenn Record^{jr} also said he had seen a dead condor about 5 years ago, in the area where they own property near Granite station. He will try to get more information about this dead condor to have for me the next time I happen that way.

The senior Records, Hazel and Glenn Sr., who live on the Granite station Ranch, and pass from the Rattlesnake grade via the Rancheria country to this ranch, have seen many condor in this area in the past. All the Records will help us by keeping records of condor observations in the future. Mrs. Hazel Record is an accomplished naturalists and has been interested in botany particularly.

Condor

Record senior saw about 26 condor somewhere near 1942 in the foothill country below Rattlesnake Grades.

Condor

He also saw about seven condor 8 or 10 years ago near John Roter Ranch in the Rancheria area.

Condor

I drove to Oak Flat Lookout where Mrs. Helen King told me she had seen an adult condor yesterday at 3:30 P.M. that flew close by the lookout heading south. I think ~~any~~ of the lookout personnel who ~~know~~ see condor

- continued -

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that come close to their stations would know it was a condor for from their testimony some condors come very close to their buildings. Undoubtedly no one would mistake identifying a condor if it came within 100 feet of where they sit or stand.

1 condor ~~Condor~~

At 11:45 A.M. an adult condor was seen, from Oak Flat Lookout, slowly moving ~~slowly~~ into a west wind about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the southwest of the lookout and drifting out to the northwest. The air must have been quite unstable for this condor was having considerable trouble remaining stable in flight. It was seen out of the horizontal quite frequently and the wing-tips were being continually dipped and raised alternately as the bird would raise and lower ~~while~~ ^{while} it was drifting onward. After passing out to the northwest for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile the condor then turned and moved northward some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and when last seen was sailing into a canyon to the north of the Lookout. The condor had lost considerable elevation as it passed from view.

The damp ground, following the rain of yesterday, moistened things in the Oak Flat area quite well, was probably partially responsible for the unstable air today. Buzzards that I watched this morning were very unstable and were zooming up and down all the ~~while~~ ^{while} appearing much like a paper bag in a dust devil.

The condor was last seen at 12:05 P.M. as it passed from sight, going into the canyon to the north.

I drove down from Oak Flat to the Rancheria area where I parked on a hilltop about one mile to the northwest of the Roger Ranch from where

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John Roper had seen two condor last week. I lunched ~~here~~ here and watched buzzards from 1:45 to 3:15 P.m. ~~At~~

At 3:15 P.m. an adult condor was seen circling to the North, among several turkey buzzards, above a point and quite high above the buzzards as well as the point. This condor was also having problems remaining stable in flight. Of course the steep points ~~up~~ up which the west wind was racing from the warm canyons below would account for this. The buzzards were like swallows bashing about on this wind. The condor remained somewhat stationary above this point, that was across a deep canyon from me and about one mile to the North, for several minutes being able to remain facing the west, all the time, and still maintain its elevation, or probably increasing its elevation, as it floated above the upcurrents of air. At 3:25 this condor commenced to drift southward, dropped into a flex glide and quartering into the wind moved swiftly away and was lost from sight at about ~~3:27~~ ^{3:27} P.m., the air now becoming very hazy and dull, limiting good visibility to a clear day minimum.

No buzzard or condor came to the carcass of the cow that lay in the canyon North of the Roper place.

I drove south to the place where Kern River emerges from mountains. The steep mountains that rise abruptly from the plains, at this ~~spots~~ point, should be a natural ~~funnel~~ ^{funnel} for Condors as they would have to pass over open lowlands if they stay too far west and to pass east of —

- Continued -

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this defile they would be forced to ^{elevate} ~~elevate~~
more than two thousand feet or more whereby they
could pass this area and remain out of sight.
I will come here sometime in the future and
take up a vigil to see if Condors can be watched
from this point to a good advantage.

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Free/and Farnsworth, of Glenville, Calif. called about 9:00 P.M. to advise me that Mrs. Farnsworth had seen six condor at 4:30 P.M. today in the area behind their home. Mr. Farnsworth said he and his wife had been absent from the ranch for several days and that the Condor could have been ~~here~~ there yesterday or the day before also. He stated that their purebred heifers are commencing to calve now and that the condor come in to feed on the afterbirth left by the animal after calving. Mr. Farnsworth thought the Condor would remain in their area so long as the heifers continue to calve in numbers.

I told Mr. Farnsworth that an effort would be made by one of us to be in the Glenville area sometime the early part of next week.



Carissa Plains

I drove to the Carissa plains at 11:00 A.M. On the Pinole ~~Ranch~~ ^{Ranch}

~~a flock of sheep~~ ^{Ranch}, a flock belonging to Leonard Bedart was in the care of a herder whom I had not met before. In that he knew no English I had the usual problem of ~~acquainting~~ ^{acquainting} him with the reason of my visit and briefing him on the matter of Condor recognition whereby he can be of help in establishing if they come to feed on any sheep that may die in the area under his observation. This he consented to do and will ^{here} be on the continual lookout for Condor.

I drove to the east side of the Carissa plains where I met and talked with a young Basque who has been in this country long enough to have picked up considerable English. He told me that both vultures and Eagles have full protection as do most small birds, ^{while} predatory hawks are not protected, in Spain. He thought protected birds enjoy more stringent regulations and protection, in Spain, than is the case in America. This Basque, upon seeing a well marked Swainson's hawk, stated that this type of hawk does not enjoy protection in Spain.

The above mentioned Swainson's hawk was circling about one hundred yards above and a bit to the rear of the shepherd's trailer cabin. The hawk was working in the vortex of a dust devil that was carrying upward bits of grain stubble, weeds, and dust; and no doubt some insects which probably had attracted the hawk. This particular Swainson's hawk could easily have been mistaken for a Condor by an observer not ~~acquainted~~ ^{acquainted} with this species, for this bird was well marked under the wings, with dark and white, and the body was quite dark. The tail nevertheless was of a light color and would give the birds identification away to anyone making a close inspection. Several of these hawks that were of this plumage could easily be taken for Condor by an unexperienced observer, especially

-Contnue-

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Shepherd thinking
on Condor shooting

3 Condors

Part 7

was outlined

if they were some distance overhead, and circling. This matter is brought to mind when regarding the observation of Bert Sneddon when he claimed to have seen 60 Condors.

The young Basque shepherd mentioned above, was very willing to talk about ^{whether} ~~whether~~ sheepmen, or shepherders, would shoot Condor. He was aware that foreigners, in this country, are not allowed to bear arms without a permit. He thought that any sheepmen, or shepherders, unsympathetic to Condor welfare would only be this way out of ignorance, and that were they briefed in on the laws protecting birds, and especially Condor and Eagles, very little harm would come to these birds; and even they could become a strong influence in the preservation of Condor, if it is true, that Condor use sheep as a staple food during critical parts of the year. This shepherd will do what he can to help us with Condor.

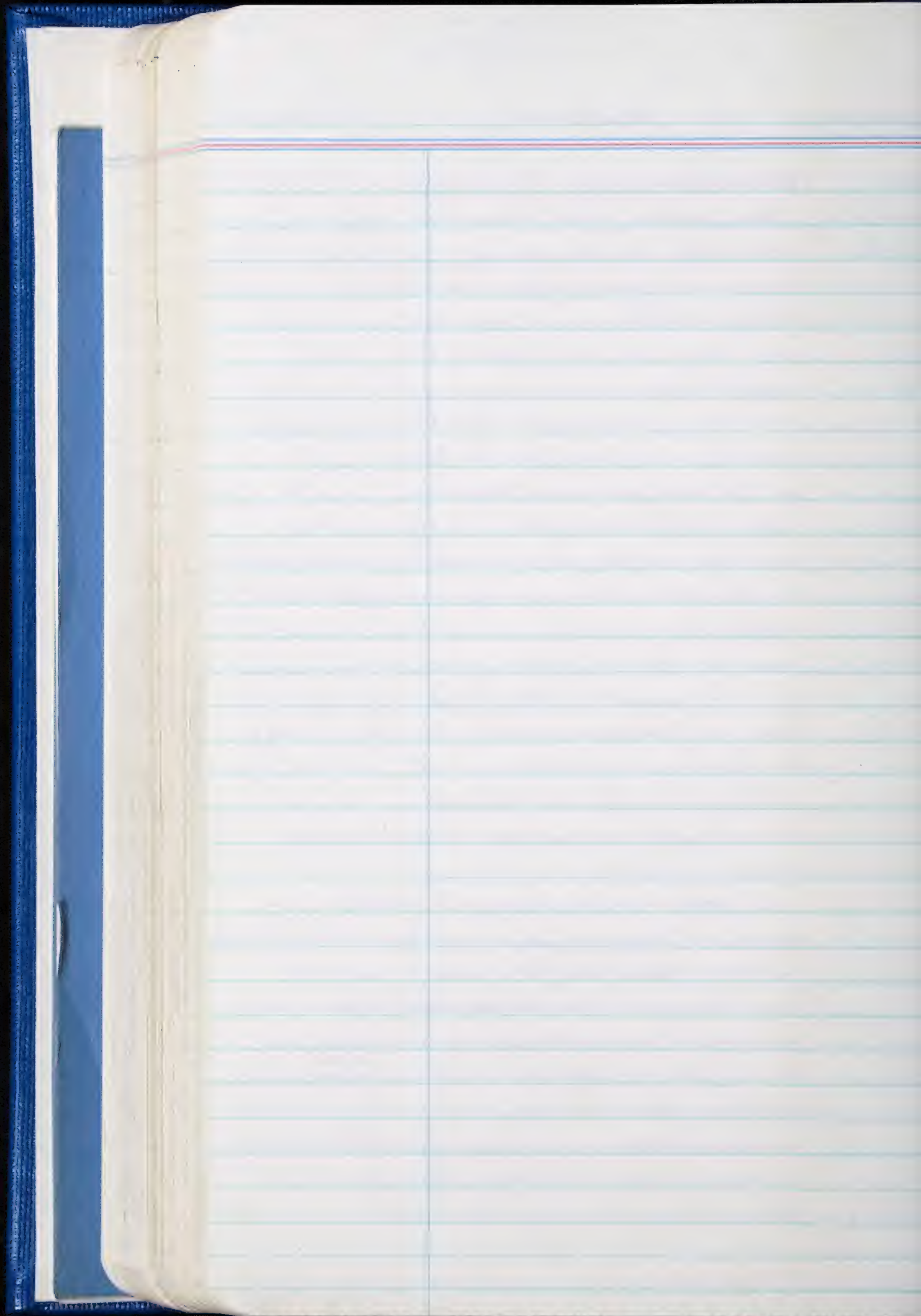
At 2:30 p.m. I visited Paul Freeborn who lives at Eld Simmer on the Carrisa plains and who told me of seeing a large shadow pass over the truck in which he was sitting about 3:00 p.m. on an afternoon about three weeks ago to the east of the La Panza bridge on highway 178 in S.L.O. County. Investigating the maker of the large shadow Mr. Freeborn said it was caused by an adult Condor that was passing slowly northward, downriver, and not very high. About two minutes later Mr. Freeborn again looked up to see three Condors circling about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of his position. The three Condors then dropped down out of sight behind a hill in the act, Mr. Freeborn felt sure, of feeding on some dead sheep that remained from the flock of sheep that had moved out of the Marajo field two or three days previously. Mr. Freeborn had to leave the area at 4:30 p.m. and had not, by this time, seen the Condors rise up out of the river where he

had seen them drop in, one hour and a half earlier.

Red Eagle
Paul Freeborn also told me of seeing an Eagle, a week ago yesterday, stagger across highway 178, one mile west of the Shell Creek bridge, with something hanging, or dragging from it, that Mr. Freeborn felt sure was not prey being carried in its talons. The Eagle in question passed through a wire fence and half flew and half hopped about two hundred feet south of the highway. When Mr. Freeborn got out of his car and advanced towards the Eagle to investigate its trouble, the bird flew across a small canyon and crashed into the brush as it landed. At this time Mr. Freeborn saw another Eagle circling rather low over this particular area. Mrs. Abelina Freeborn was with her husband and corroborated his observations and statements. They both felt the eagle was in trouble and ~~had~~ had probably been shot.

I will go by this spot tomorrow and look into this and see if I can find any trace of the Eagle mentioned above.

Lead no-
I stopped at the camp trailer of a shepherd of Jake Martins and Joe Asparin who is camped near the Grain elevator in the Henry Wreden field about 7 miles north west of Carrisa Plains school. The ~~shepherd~~ shepherd was not home. I looked in his cabin and saw three guns standing, with the butts upward, in the ^{corner} ~~corner~~ behind the shepherd's bed. Two beds were in the trailer cabin, one of which probably belongs to the boss, or owner, Mr. Asparin. Most all shepherds, although being foreigners, have guns in their possession.



At 9:30 A.M., enroute to San Luis Obispo, California, I stopped and looked for remains of the Golden Eagle that Paul Freeborn told me about yesterday, but could find no signs of its presence.

At 2:10 P.M. fifteen buzzards came to feed on the carcass of a small sheep that I had brought back from the Carrisa plains with me yesterday. One buzzard of this group that at first was master of the flock and was standing on the sheep carcass while the others waited their turn, was challenged by another buzzard that had just flown in and alighted near the carcass. A struggle for mastery of the situation ensued. The fighting was intense. One buzzard would grasp its opponent by the skin of its head with its beak and hang on ^{while} ~~until~~ the opponent flapped and floundered about on the ground until it broke the hold only to dash in and grasp its ~~opponent~~ opponent in the same manner and inflict like punishment. This fighting continued for some three or four minutes when one of the buzzards in the fight gave up and flew a few feet away, whereby the winner took over the carcass and enjoyed the respect of all other buzzards gathered about this particular feast.

No Condor showed up to feed on the sheep carcass mentioned above that had been opened with an axe last evening and left about 100 yards west of the windmill, in the Pass, to the south west of my home about $\frac{3}{7}$ th of a mile from my house.



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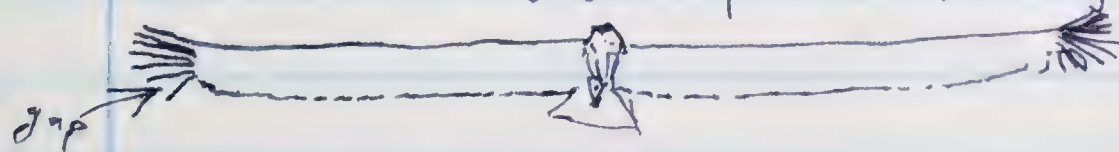
AN east wind was blowing when I left home at 1:15 P.M. enroute to Glennville, Kern County. This was the first sign of the prevailing east wind that blows in the Tumbler-cholance area throughout the fall and winter months. I arrived at Woody at 3:30 P.M. stopping at the Kern County ^{fire} Station there, where the attending crew told me that no condor had been reported to them, nor seen by them, this year. One fellow said that the best place to see condor was in the area about ~~the~~ Granite Station.

Neither Remic nor Dorothy Albittie ^{were} ~~were~~ at home. On road from Woody to ^{Glennville} ~~Glennville~~ I met J.O. Morrow, an old time resident of the Woody - Glennville area who had never seen condor in this area, but had seen them frequently at the North end of the Poso Creek Oil Fields where he owns property. He said that the condor come to the North Oil Fields in the spring. Four or five condor are the most he had ever observed in one flock. Mr. Morrow seems interested in birds. He knows Red-tailed Hawks and buzzards. He confided to me that his wife is nuts on Nature.

I arrived at the Farnsworth Ranch that is located about ^{two} ~~four~~ miles south of Glennville, Kern County, California. While watching for condor at this site at 5:10 P.M. an adult condor with two secondary feathers missing from its right wing came slowly from the south and continued onward in the same direction out of sight. This condor had a gap in the secondary feathers about half way out on the ~~right~~ Right wing and another gap in the Right wing secondaries about $\frac{1}{4}$ way out from the body. See diagram.



At 5:15 P.M. another adult condor came from the south, slowly, and it too continued onward to the north out of sight. This condor had a gap between the 6th and 8th primary on the right wing. See diagram.



a moderate breeze was blowing from the Northwest. One of

- Continued -

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The employees on the Farnsworth Ranch had seen a Condor -
 Passing over the Ranch buildings, at noon, heading in a southerly direction.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth were absent from ranch when I arrived, but a note on the yard gate asked that I feel free to go about the ranch I wished. They had not returned home when I left ranch at 6:00 p.m. I camped at the Fulton U.S. Forest Service Camp that is about three miles east of Glenville. Mr. Hal Seyden who lives at the Fulton Camp with his wife and children had not seen a Condor although he had been on the watch for them.

J.O. Morrow who has lived, or operated, in the Woody-Glenville area for fifty years never saw a Condor in this area. See proceeding page - Mr. Morrow never saw over four Condors in one bunch in the Poso Oil fields.

Sonic Booms

At 5:20 p.m. while at the carcass of the dead cow that lay half a mile southeast of the Farnsworth home, two harsh sonic booms were heard in quick succession. The Turkey buzzards gave no indication of being disturbed by these harsh explosive sounds. At 5:30 p.m. another sonic boom rent the air in the same locality - a buzzard did not react to this boom. ~~at this time~~

Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth, who knows Condors,

I was at the Farnsworth ranch about 3 miles south of
Glenville, Kern County, Calif. by 8:15 A.M. Turkey Buzzards were
already feeding on the cow carcass that had been dragged up
into a narrow draw about $\frac{3}{8}$ th of a mile East by southeast
from the Farnsworth house. The carcass had been left in a
small opening among the growth of blue oak trees that
are growing quite thickly in this canyon. Birds landing at
this carcass must let down among these trees that,
at the carcass, are about 20 feet high and growing at
an average of about one tree to every square Rod of
space. Most of these blue oak trees, (*Quercus douglasii*) are
somewhat Tubular in growth, that is, not spreading, but some
are large and spread over an area of 1000 square feet or more.
The North slope of this canyon is not high. From the canyon
bottom, that is about 30 feet below the cow carcass, to the ridge top
~~North~~ to the North, is a distance of about 200 yards. West of the
carcass, or down canyon, the oaks become more scattered and
the canyon floor more wide and rolling. To the south of the
carcass the canyon rises approximately 300 yards to the
ridge-top. This side of the canyon is heavily wooded with
Blue oak, Digger pine, Buckeye and *Ceanothus cuneatus*. Near the
ridge top the pines grow tall and ~~sparsely~~ ^{sparsely} timbered, while lower down
they are short and bushy. This south canyon slope is not steep except
near the top where some rock outcropping occurs. To the eastward
of where the cow carcass ^{was} the canyon narrows and rises
steeply. Dense chaparral covers the upper reaches of this
canyon that ends about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of where the cow
carcass lay. The elevation of the Farnsworth home
at Glenville is about 3200 feet.

A roadway passes the Farnsworth home ~~that~~ ^{and} continues
in a somewhat circuitous route eastward and around
the area where the cow carcass was located remaining at
a distance of about $\frac{3}{8}$ th of a mile from the location

- Continued -

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at its closest point. Automobiles, Jeeps - pickups and large trucks used this road ~~during~~ ^{during} the time I spent here in observation. Dogs were barking off and on during the ~~time~~ ^{time} I spent here and the cattle feeding operations that ~~continue~~ ^{continues} throughout most of the day ~~here~~ about the Farnsworth headquarters, gives rise to much bellowing of cattle - banging of truck doors - roaring of motors - talking of people and general confusion. At one point in this operation a pickup comes into the canyon, ~~twice each day~~ ^{twice each day} where the cow carcass was, to feed several young cattle the pasture in this area. The person performing the feeding operation acknowledges his presence with feed, to the cattle, by uttering loud mellow calls that tend to attract these cattle to the feed. These activities are general as a daily procedure.

(Small
Condor already)

The buzzards that were feeding on the cow carcass this morning were well represented with young birds. This was not the case when I came here yesterday evening. Most of these buzzards were very gentle and would allow one to pass within 50 feet of their perch without their flying. They did fly from the cow carcass when I came within 200 feet. But in a tree they seemed quite confident of their safety. The young buzzards were the most trusting. 50 plus buzzards were in the general area of the cow carcass at 9:00 A.M. Two Ravens also fed on the carcass.

Mrs. Farnsworth came in her Jeep at 9:30 A.M. and offered to drive me to rock ~~corral~~ ^{Corral} and show me where she had seen condor feeding on a dead calf on ~~any~~ ^{sundown}. We drove to this location that was about 1/4 mile south of the rock ~~corral~~ ^{Corral}. By following the marks ~~left~~ ^{left} the four adult condor that Evelyn Farnsworth saw feed on this dead calf. We reconstructed the path -

Food
Condor

- Continued -

where the condor dragged the body of this calf that died at birth. Tall grasses and a road bed made this tracking possible—many feathers, both condor and buzzard were picked up at this site, (see specimen No. 5).

At 10:20 A.M. on August 11, 1963, Mrs. Farnsworth ~~said~~ ^{explained} ~~that~~ in the process of inspecting her cows, that are now calving, she came upon one condor and 10 plus buzzards gathered about the carcass of ^{this} dead calf that she had seen and recorded as a death loss earlier in the morning. One hour later she returned and came upon four adult condor feeding on the carcass of this calf that had been dropped from the cow, near a large rock about 100 yards above the road and 1/4 mile south of the Rock Corral. As she drove up on these condor they were forced to come downhill to get into the air and in the process passed by within 50 feet of Mrs. Farnsworth. These four condor had dragged the remains of this calf from the large rock above, down, and into the roadway. In doing this a distance of one-hundred-yards was covered, downhill, and over a five foot bank ~~on~~ ^{on} the uphill side of the road, and it was in the ^{leeside} ~~top~~ of this bank ~~when~~ ^{when} Mrs. Farnsworth ~~found~~ ^{arrived on the scene.} Later in the evening of the same day Mrs. Farnsworth again saw four adult condor picking the remains of this calf carcass that by then had been lifted up over a 30 inch bank on the downhill side of the roadway and dragged through large rocks and lodged between two large rocks that were located about 10 feet from the bottom of the canyon that runs parallel to, and below, the road. Mrs. Farnsworth found ~~the~~ four condor roosting in a large oak, on a ridge to the west, and directly above where the above calf body, or remains, were left.

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Condor

found -

The Next morning Mrs. Farnsworth saw four Condor picking at this same calf carcass.

At 9:15 A.M. on 11 August 1963 Mrs. Farnsworth saw one adult condor feeding on the carcass of a dead, N calf $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Northwest of ~~the~~ the Farnsworth home. Five Condor, one of which was a black juvenile circled above this location. Mrs. Farnsworth quite sure these were different than the four Condor that fed on the dead calf $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the rock for she returned to see the six Condor on the ground about the ~~the~~ dead calf northwest of home after she had observed the four Condor feeding on the calf $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the rock Corral.

While riding this morning with Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth in her Jeep I was told, by her, the series of events that led to her claim that Condor Kill calves. It seems that in 1948, early of a morning, Mrs. Farnsworth in the process of inspecting ~~the~~ their cows that were in the process of calving, came upon a freshly born calf that was standing up and appeared, in all respects, to be healthy. This was on the White River Ranch of the Farnsworths that is located in Tulare County south of the Town of White River. In the evening Mrs. Farnsworth returned to this same spot and found 19 Condor at this location feeding on the carcass of a calf that she feels sure ~~it~~ was the same one she saw standing in the morning. Mrs. Farnsworth feels the evidence gathered in this instance is sufficient to establish the fact that Condor will kill calves. She does feel that this was a rare instance and one that probably ~~condor do not~~ ~~kill calves~~ does not condemn ~~a~~ Condor as a regular enemy of calves. She claims not to have ever seen at Condor even though she feared to have them among

Condors kill calves?

→ 19 Condor

found

California Condor.

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her cattle. Of late years Mrs. Farnsworth has developed an interest in Condor and now is a strong influence in their protection here in the ^{Glennville} ~~Granite~~ area.

Mrs. Farnsworth thinks there would be no cattlemen in the Glennville, Woody-White River, or Granite Station area that would shoot Condor.

At 11:30 A.M. I took up a watch of the canyon where the dead cow was, $\frac{3}{8}$ th of a mile Southeast of the Farnsworth home. At 12:10 P.M. an adult Condor was seen circling above the Farnsworth home in company of 15 plus buzzards. This Condor was quite high but I could see that there was a feather missing in the light wing about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way out from the body. At 12:20 P.M. two adult Condor flew in and lit on a tall bent pine that grows on the ridgetop south of where the cow carcass lay. At 1:15 P.M. the lower of the two Condor in this pine glided down and after three circles dropped out of sight among the oak trees where the cow carcass lay. As this Condor dropped in several buzzards flew up out of the area where ^{the} carcass was. At 1:35 P.M. more Condor came in. It was very difficult to determine how many Condor now came for in watching the first bird that came in others were in and perched in trees when I took my glasses from this bird. The Condor that had dropped in to feed on the carcass ~~from~~ now came pumping out of the canyon. The swish of the wings being plainly heard at a distance of 250 yards away. Another Condor dropped down into the oaks by the cow carcass. soon another Condor did likewise. At 1:45 P.M. another adult Condor came down from high above with legs hanging and wings drawn in, dropped on down into canyon near cow carcass and landed on the ~~limb~~ of a dead oak tree that stands about 70 feet

Condor?

Condor-

Condor

Condor

Condor

- Continued -

California Condor

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from where the Cow carcass lay. ~~Soon~~ Soon another Condor flew up out of the canyon and lit in the tree as the previous bird had landed in.

Turning my glasses to the pine ~~covered~~ ^{covered} canyon side to south I saw a blackheaded juvenile that had flown while I was observing the other Condor. Condor came went from under the carcass. Some condor were seen to circle up out of the canyon and leave the area others came in. It was impossible to tell if the new birds or birds that would return after leaving.

At 3:00 P.M. a ~~pink~~ ^{pinkish orange} headed Condor flew up out of the oaks and lit on the limb of a dead oak. No white band could be seen on the back of this bird's wings although it had much white under the wings and the head was well colored ~~orange~~. This bird also had ~~its head~~ a very swollen head and neck. The head being so swollen that the orange coloration glistened in the sun. Several of a Condor that came out from where the carcass was ~~rub~~ ^{rub} their necks along the limbs on which they sat.

At 2:55 P.M. two adult Condor flew over, heading southward and not paying the slightest interest in the activities below.

Five Condor were in sight at 3:10 P.M. all were perched in trees; two in canyon bottom - one in dead pine $\frac{1}{2}$ way up ridge to south of carcass and two in pines on top of ridge to south. A 6th Condor came up from where the Cow carcass was and lit on the same limb as the other Condor was on, $\frac{1}{2}$ way up ridge, and scared ~~the~~ ^{the first} Condor away as it crowded onto the pine limb. This ^{first} Condor flew up and alighted in a pine near the ridge top, to the south. At 3:15 P.M. a Condor left the area and flew away to the north.

California Condor

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Two more condor ~~circled~~ ^{circled} the canyon at 3:25 p.m.

Two adult condor flew up from carcass and alighted in tall pine that stood in a flat, at the canyon bottom, and about 150 yards from where I sat.

The young condor left the pine tree in which it perched and after circling the area three times landed with a crash in another pine about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way to the top of the ridge, and south of the carcass.

at 3:35^{p.m.} the adult in dead oak near carcass, and young condor, are all I could see from where I sat.

3:40 p.m. Young flew and lit on bent pine on top of ridge. Two adult Condor came and lit, one above and one below the young. At 3:50 p.m. top adult hopped down near young and both young and adult stood on bent pine ~~with their beaks together~~ ^{together} very close together and the young gently flapped its wings for about ten seconds in what appeared to be a feeding activity. The adult involved with the young in this activity then flew out a bit and returned to land 20 feet below in the same tree. The lower adult, five minutes later, walked up the bent pine, to the young, and repeated the activity as did the first adult except that the apparent feeding of the young only continued for about five seconds this time. The young bird then rubbed its neck and head on the limb on which it sat. It would also use its beak to hang onto the tree when shifting position.

At 4:00 p.m. 7 Condor were in sight at one time, some circling some perched in pines. At 4:15 one adult condor came from canyon bottom, circled high and left to the North. The young condor flew from its perch, circled the area several times then flew out of sight towards the south behind the ridge. It was not high as it passed out of sight.

-continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

14 August 1958

and seemed to be ~~dropping~~ lowering in altitude as it left.

5 adult Condor still in sight in trees at 4:25 P.M.

Young Color -

The young Condor that ~~was fed~~ appeared to have been by the two adults had NO white stripe on the back wings and only dim grey coloration along the lower part of the wings underneath. ~~the~~ The head was small, black. The coarse feathers on neck seemed very prominent.

An adult Condor flew from the ridge-top, floated down and perched in another pine near bottom of south ridge.

At 6:00 P.M. 9 adult Condor were counted perched in trees in the area. The sun now being low, made the orange heads of adult Condor that were perched in the now darkening pines, stand out like lanterns in the night. At 6:05^{P.M.} three of the perched Condor flew away to the south. Another adult Condor came in and perched in a pine a few minutes later. Two Condor flew out from the ridge and circled with many buzzards. A black-headed Condor that showed much white under the wing came in circled with these two Condor at 6:08^{P.M.} and all three left to the south. I suspect that the young Condor that came and circled with the two adults could have been the same young bird that was fed by the adults this afternoon and that the low evening sun accentuated the white in its wings. The white bars could not be seen on top of the wings ^{as} was the case with the two adults. The low sun flashed on the white under the adults wings as they circled before leaving to the south with the young bird.

6:30

At ~~6:30~~ P.M. only two buzzards were in the air. Five adult Condor were observed perched in pine trees on ridge south of cow carcass. None were in pines on top of ridge. Three of these adult Condor flew out over canyon.

- Continued -

at 6:40 and drifted from sight to the East.

I left the area at 6:45 p.m. The low sun now cast a shadow into the pines on south side of canyon making observation difficult.

While the adult condor came and went from the cow carcass it was of particular interest to see how easily they could drop down among the Oaks where the cow carcass lay and also leave the area when finished with feeding. Several of the adult condor that came up out of the place where the carcass lay, ~~and~~ passed by within 60 yards of me, appeared to have been filled with food, as their crops, ~~well~~ extended, showed the large red bare patch of skin where the feathers had separated with the expansion of the skin over the full crop. A prevailing west breeze probably helped them in getting out of this canyon. At no time did I see a condor coming from the carcass, that seemed in trouble. The power of their wing-beats could be realized when one heard the swoosh of their wings as they beat the air in gaining elevation.

In coming up out of the trees from the carcass, the condor were forced to spring upward about 25 feet as I could see no means by which a large bird could maneuver out among the thickly growing trees. The condor that flew and lit on the dead oak 70 feet from the carcass, a maneuver several of the birds accomplished, called for an upward lift of about 40 feet in the seventy feet of flying distance to this tree.

I am sure the condor that fed in the canyon today ~~knew~~ ^{knew} of my whereabouts, for where I sat seemed to be the logical route over which the condor would fly as they came out from the carcass. No condor came out directly over me. Some did circle over me after having come from the carcass by a different route.

under
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-Continued-

California Condor

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feeding situ-

It is also noteworthy that the carcass of the cow on which the condor fed today, was opened with a knife. Yesterday evening when I went to inspect the carcass I made several cuts in the dry, tough hide that I ~~am~~ ^{am} would have been impossible for any bird to open, even eagle. One of the cuts that I made in the hide of the dead cow was from the vaginal ~~orifice~~ ^{orifice} down to the bottom end of the udder. This was ~~most~~ ^{most} used by the condor and buzzards, they having entered the ~~stomach~~ ^{stomach} cavity from this cut. A cut on the front ~~shoulder~~ ^{shoulder} used some but not being able to go deeper than the blade, was limited in use. Coyotes, or dogs, were they present and hungry, would open a carcass like this up so that it could be used by condor and other avian scavengers.

The Condor when going to the carcass to feed, in most cases, dropped slowly down into the canyon bottom and swinging about as they approached over the carcass appeared to side-slip down among the oaks very easily. I would suspect that condor can go in a difficult spot easier than can an eagle. A condor would probably experience as much, or more, trouble coming out than would an eagle.



The general appearance of an adult Condor letting itself down ~~from~~ from extreme heights—

I spent the night at the Fulton Guard station of the U.S. Forest Service. No one at this station knows condor. Of the 8 or 10 young fellows who camp ~~here~~ here at Fulton, only one lad from Fillmore had ever heard of condor. He claimed to have seen three condor in the Sespe River region. Hal Seyden, who lives at Fulton station with his family and who cruises timber for the U.S. Forest Service in the Clackhorn Mountain area, has never seen a condor.

At 6:45 a.m. I arrived at my observation point of yesterday that is only about ~~300~~²⁰⁰ yards East by Southeast from the Farnsworth home. The sun had not yet reached into the area where the condor were roosting. Late yesterday evening after I had left the condors must have been quite active, as one condor was on the top of a small dead pine, on the top of the ridge south of the cow carcass. This was the only condor on the horizon. Mrs. Farnsworth later ~~told~~ told me of seeing this condor come to roost on the top of this small dead pine on the horizon just before dark last night. She thought it strange that so large a bird would choose such a small perch to roost overnight on. The top of the pine where the condor roosted could not have been over 3 inches in diameter - The pine was dead. As the sun shone into the canyon making observation better, I commenced seeing other condor. An adult condor was ~~perched~~ perched on the dead oak limb that is within 70 feet of the cow carcass and which was used by condors as a perch on several occasions yesterday. The young condor was perched in a small pine tree about 200 yards southwest of the carcass. Two adult condor were together, on separate small branches of a pine tree $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the top of the ridge to the south. As the light grew better more condor were seen on ~~the~~ separate perches. One adult condor was perched on a branch about finger size, in the top of a small pine tree ^{1 way} $\frac{1}{2}$ up the ridge to the south —

- continued -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

13 August 19

of the dead cow.

The young condor flew from its perch at 7:15 A.M., sailed down and lit on a dead limb of the oak within 70 feet of dead cow on which another adult condor was perched. At 7:00 one of the adult condors sailed down from its perch near the ridge to the south and dropped in where the cow carcass lay. I walked up canyon towards the dead cow at 8:05 A.M. The condor that sat in the oak near the cow flew out over me and approached within 100 yards of where it sat. It moved over and alighted on a small pine ^{to} the south ~~side~~ of me about 200 yards and upon getting settled in on its perch commenced preening feathers. At 8:10 A.M. the adult condor that had dropped in where the carcass lay came out over me with full crop and red skin showing underneath. The swoosh of its wings was most impressive as it flew out over my position about 100 feet high. This bird flew, pumping all the way with its wings, westward about 400 yards and lit in a big ^{closely} ~~thick~~ branched pine tree with a crashing sound. I then moved on up canyon towards where the young condor sat on the dead oak limb. Turkey buzzards that were perched all over the place, were taken off with flapping sounds, some flying only to another tree, some circling overhead. The young condor let me pass about 60 feet below the tree in which it sat. As I moved on past to a spot near the dead cow the young condor took off and flew to a pine to the south about 150 yards away and there it and proceeded to preen its feathers. The young condor flew much more easily than was the case with the adults. It appeared much lighter on the wing and the swoosh of its wings as it flew from the oak was much less in intensity than the case with either of the adults that flew before. The bird did seem to experience more trouble in landing

Flying 5/10-

the pine tree and once landed it seemed undecided as to which limb to take or which foot to use. Its size can be noticed easily. I doubt that it would weigh within $\frac{3}{4}$ the weight of the adult birds. Its head and neck were much smaller and its tarsometatarsus were much smaller than that of the adults.

Returning from inspecting the cow carcass, that had been fed on quite heavily from the rear end, I stopped near the tall pine in the flat about 200 feet west of the cow carcass. From this spot, with a good rifle, I could have shot and killed any one of six condor that perched well within shooting range of a deer rifle. One adult bird and the young 9 could have reached easily with a small caliber rifle.

The employee of the Farnsworth's came into the area at 8:45 A.M. and fed the cattle in this valley. He was within 400 yards of all the condor perched in the canyon with the exception of the adult that had flew from the carcass and perched in the pine tree to the west. His calls to the cattle resounded throughout the canyon. His pickup truck clanked and roared as he moved about with the heavy load of feed. No condor flew while he was there.

At 9:10 A.M. Buzzards began leaving the canyon, in which the cow carcass was, and in which they had roosted. They came out in numbers of 8 or 10 at a time, circled up out of the canyon and flew out to the west and north.

Two adult condor flew down-canyon and joined a flock of circling buzzards at 9:20 A.M.; A 3rd condor adult joined them at 9:25 A.M. These three circled up and flew out of sight to the south. As these three birds left the area a fourth condor came from its roost at 9:28 A.M. and commenced circling as the young condor flew down canyon and joined it at 9:30 A.M. While the 6th and 7th —

Blanchette

-Continued-

California Condor

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Condors followed in close order and soon flew out towards the south following the route of the previous ~~birds~~ birds.

At 9:40 I saw seven condor circling far to the south. An 8th condor left the roost area at 9:50 A.M. and the 9th condor to leave the roost area moved out and commenced circling above the Farnsworth home at 9:55 A.M. The 8th bird led to the southward in pursuit of the others but the 9th bird moved out of sight at 9:59 A.M. in a southeasterly direction. A condor, probably the 9th bird, came and circled the ridge-top to the south of the dead cow and then flew out of sight at 10:02 A.M.

10th Condor
All was quiet and peaceful in the canyon at 10:10 A.M. Not a bird was in sight in the sky. I thought all the condors had left. At 10:12 A.M. a 10th ~~condor~~ condor came for its perch in the dense pines on the slope to the south of the dead cow and flew out over the canyon, circled up to a good height and moved out of sight in a northward direction at 10:18 A.M. All was quiet again.

The buzzards did not remain to feed on the dead cow this morning. Only 4 or 5 of them remained near the carcass.

At 11:15 A.M. one adult condor was picked up, carried out to the northeast about three miles. Another condor joined this one at 11:20 A.M. Both these condors moved slowly northward and were out of sight at 11:23 A.M.

No condor seen until 4:00 P.M. When I picked up three birds circling about two miles to the eastward. These three condors came a bit closer but when within a mile of my location turned and drifted northward at 4:15 A.M.

Turkey buzzards now returned to the area. Several dozen of these birds now swung in and lit near the carcass. At the carcass of a calf that had been

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born dead last night, and which I had thrown out in a flat about 200 yards East of where I sat. A buzzard now came and stood nearby looking at this dead calf but did not commence eating it. This at 4:30 P.M. At 5:10 P.M. a lone Condor was noticed as it circled above the Farnsworth home. It now being late I left word with Mrs. Farnsworth to watch the area when she could and record any Condor observations here she might make. This she kindly consented to do.

Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth comes from pioneer stock. Her people homesteaded in the Glenville area in the 1880's.

The first Condor that her mother ever saw was ~~in~~ about 1947 when a lone Condor was sighted in the White River area by both Mrs. Farnsworth and ~~her~~ ^{her}. Again Condor not identified by residence of Sierra foothills until ~~to~~ ~~20 years ago~~. The last 15 to 20 years.



IN Paso Robles, California Today at 9:50 A.M. I met Steve Matthes, a former Lion Trapper and state employee who now carries on a Lion and Jaguar hunting business in Mexico. I was interested in getting from him the particulars of an incident, about twenty years ago, when, according to Riley Patterson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife predatory animal man from the Bakersfield Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Steve Matthes accompanied him when they found the carcass of a dead Condor on, or near, ^{Rocky} ~~Rocky~~ Butte, in the San Simeon area of western San Luis Obispo, County California. In answer to my question that had he ever seen or heard of a dead Condor in the Rocky Butte area he stated that one time he did see a Condor that was thought to be sick for he and Riley Patterson had pounded on the trunk of a dead pine in which a Condor sat perched without the Condor leaving or even flapping its wings. Due to the Condors refusal to leave its perch these two men thought the bird sick: were I a Condor and knew Matthes as I now do, I would have been flying from that tree long before he got within shooting distance.

Steve Matthes told me that he has seen up to 13 Condor on Castle Mountain, in southern Monterey County in past years, and that on one occasion he watched a Condor feed on a deer carcass on the flat out in front of the Lloyd Taylor Ranch that is located on the south side of Castle Mountain at its base.

Steve Matthes ~~at~~ only saw the one Condor on Rocky Butte. It was the only Condor he ever saw west of the Salinas River drainage in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties.

here

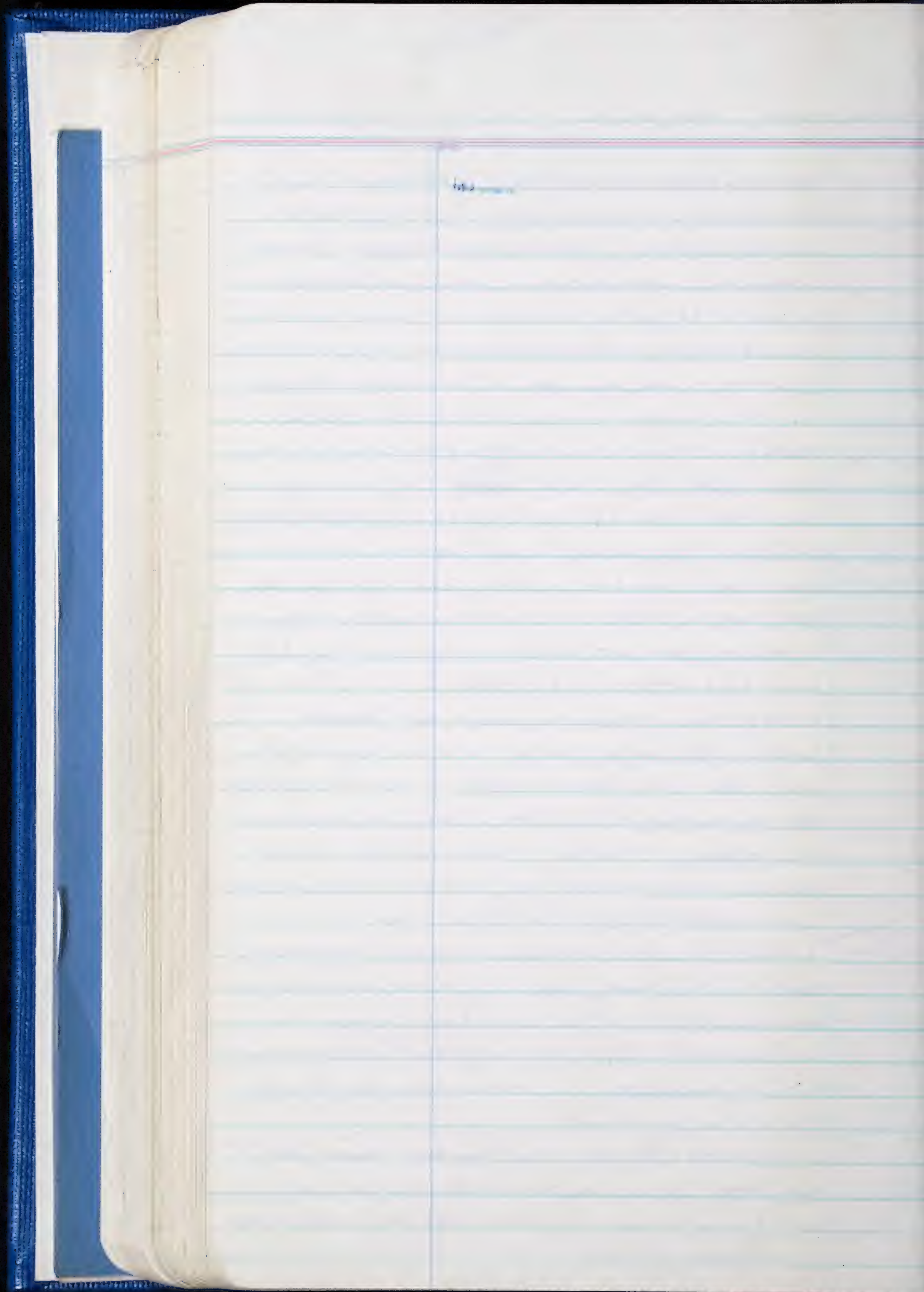
Condor?

Sick Condor?

Condor? —

Condor —

distribution



*Frazier Peak
Frazier Co.*

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California Condor

Eben McMillan

20 August 1963

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Left home at 12:35 P.m. and was in Bakerfield by 2:15 P.m. Called at the office of Fish and Game warden Clanton but he was out. Drove to White Wolf Pass, via old highway 466. A stiff southwest wind was blowing through the White Wolf Pass as I parked the pickup for 30 minutes. Saw no large birds in the air. Drove to Lebec, via Arvin, where I stopped and checked with Henry Melendy ~~at~~ ^{at} Tagon Ranch Headquarters. Henry was having trouble with Deer hunters on the west side of Highway 99 where the Deer hunting season is now open. The East side of Highway 99 does not open to Deer hunting with guns until the latter part of September. Dove season commences on 31 August. Henry Melendy expects a good deal of hunting poaching pressure on the first weekend of Dove season. I showed photographs of Condor to both Melendy and the lady at the switchboard.

Arrived on top of Frazier Mountain at 5:30 P.m. A fire was in progress in the Little Sespe Canyon near Fillmore according to Mr. Calhoun who tends the Frazier Mountain Lookout with his wife. This fire had only commenced burning this afternoon and its smoke was holding low and being blown eastward into the Liebre and Antelope Valley areas.

Mr. ~~Calhoun~~ Calhoun gave me his August reports of Condor that included 5 birds on the 15th and 7 birds on the 15th later in the day. The following are his Condor records to date -

- ✓ 8/11/63 at 12:25 Two Condor alighted on west face of East Frazier Peak.
- ✓ 8/13/63 at 12:05 One Condor, going southwest
- ✓ 8/15/63 at 11:27 Two Condor going southwest
- ✓ 8/15/63 at 11:45 Five Condor alight on west face of East Frazier
- ✓ 8/15/63 at ^{3:05} ~~10:05~~ Seven Condor circling above East Frazier Peak
- ✓ 8/18/63 at ^{5:55} ~~5:25~~ One Condor going southwest.

Mr. Calhoun stated that the Condor which alighted on the west slope of ~~Frazier~~ East Frazier Peak seemed to drop into brush covering that was directly below an opening he pointed out to me from the lookout. In order to check out this important observation on August 15 which was the same date I was watching other Condor at Glenville, in North Kern County

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I decided to go and check this area where Mr. Calhoun saw the Condor alighting on the west slope of East Frazier the morning. Accordingly, I camped at the overflow hunters ground that is situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downhill and below the Lookout on Frazier Mountain.

One man and wife had left their pickup at the hunter overflow camp and gone out to hunt in their Jeep in the morning. They returned quite late in the night and slept sitting up in their pickup.

It turned quite cool last night and a brisk west wind blew until dawn. Several automobiles-pickups and Jeeps were heard and seen going over the roads throughout the night. Some of these were probably night hunting.

A covey of about 15 mountain quail passed through the campground before sunrise doing much calling enroute. A pigmy owl that had answered my call last evening, again answered from the pine forest in the canyon to the northeast of the Campground. Great horned owls also called last night.

I drove out along the ridge to the end of the road on East Frazier and hiked into the area where Mr. Calhoun had observed condors alighting on Aug. 15th. Two other cars were parked near where I left my pickup. These, no doubt, belonged to hunters who were hunting for deer in this area. From 7:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. I searched the mountain-side that was below the opening pointed out to me last night, by Mr. Calhoun, as the place where he had seen the condors on the 15th, but I could find no evidence of anything leading to what might have been the carcass of a dead animal on which said condors might have fed. Human tracks were quite common on the trails along the ridge-top but tended to become scarce, or negative, as one dropped down the mountainside away from the roadway. Several deer were observed during the morning, all of which dashed away as soon ^{as they} saw me. No birds were seen of a size that ~~would~~ would be important during my search in the canyon.

Returning to my pickup I drove back to the Lookout on Frazier mountain and arrived at the Tower at 11:50 A.M.. Mr. Calhoun called to me, as soon as I arrived, to hurry up into the tower and see the fine condor he was watching. This I did. When I reached the glass enclosed room at the top of the tower Mr. Calhoun was looking out to the west with binoculars. I immediately joined him in the watch. Two condors were then circling above the

California Condor

Eben D. McMillan

21 August 1963

Condor

West face of Frazier mountain that overlooks the Lockwood valley. soon more condor rose up from below the crown of Frazier mountain. Five were counted, then a sixth bird was noted coming from the west and ~~high~~ high. The birds played about along the west, and southwest of the mountain, riding the strong up-currents of air were the result of a brisk west wind being deflected up as it hit the west slope of the mountain. One of these circled up, gained an elevation somewhat higher than the top of Frazier mountain and then flew northward in a direct line over Cuddy valley continuing on northwest until a great distance from me, when it turned more westward and disappeared from sight.

Turning back to the other condor that were still playing about, having now moved more to the southwest crown of Frazier mountain where it looks out over the Mutau Flats. The five remaining condor were now joined by five more that seemed to come up the Sespe ^{valley} ~~river~~ at an elevation about equal to that of the Frazier mt. Lookout that is at

Condor

elevation of 8026 feet. The ten condor now present came to lower out of sight below the crown of the mountain then rise suddenly on the strong wind currents whereby one bird might rise a thousand feet in making one ~~etc~~ circle. We noted a tendency among these condor to keep in pairs. At least many of them. At one time five of these condor drifted southeastward up Pillu Creek and about the northeast slope of Alamo mountain only to return to the southwest face of Frazier mountain again and join the other five condor that circled in this area while they were away.

Condor

One condor finally left the flock of ten and moved around the east side of Frazier mountain at an elevation perhaps higher than the mountain top, circling

over to East Frazier and continued northward from there. This was an adult condor. Soon two condors followed in nearly the exact route and were followed several minutes later by a fourth condor using this route around the east face of Frazier mountain, across to East Frazier ~~Peak~~ and then out northward where it seemed they were gathering together and circling about the area of Tecuya mountain five miles

to the north of Frazier mountain. At 1:00 p.m. six condors flew directly over the Frazier mountain lookout approximately 1500 feet above us and separated into pairs, traveling northward, about 1/4 mile separating the 1st and 2nd pairs and about 200 yards separating the 2nd and 3rd pairs.

All condors which I observed this morning and afternoon have been positively identified as adults with the exception of the first condor that flew across Cuddy valley to the north and I feel sure from the slate color of the back and the prominent upper wing-bars that it was also an adult bird.

I watched the last 6 condors that passed northward over the Frazier mountain lookout go to the spot in the general area of Tecuya mountain and circle. When last seen at 1:10 p.m. they were heading northwest and dropping behind the mountain range that lies across from us, ~~on~~ on the north side of Cuddy Canyon.

Mr. Calhoun mentioned having noticed condors throughout the years he has been on lookouts in the Las Padres National Forest, seem to have a pattern of movements that does not lend to predictability of ~~these~~ ^{these} movements. He stated that one will see them for two or three days in a row, then not see them again for several days. He was wondering if they fill up on Carrion and then sleep in some remote area for several days before —

-continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

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going out to hunt for food again. To some of the thinking, I would agree.

Food site

How much food
body weight

Probably the relationship between the body weight of a condor and its ability to fly is quite critical. It is known that many birds will become unable to fly whenever ~~the~~ body fats increase body weight above a certain degree. Under certain conditions I have observed condors having difficulty flying. Other observers have found condors unable to fly due to what they felt was conditions preventing them from so doing that in the matter of several hours would and the bird be able to again sustain itself in flight. It has been held by many old settlers of the Condor country that condors will eat so much that they cannot fly from the ground. If any, or all of these instances are correct it would go with saying that the body weight and ability to fly relationship in condors is probably more critical than in nearly any other land bird that depends on sustained flight, over great distances, as a means of survival. Therefore it would seem natural that condors would have an inherent mechanism that would work as a governing force to prevent these birds from eating so much that the body weight would reach that whereby it would interfere with their ability to fly.

Food site

This may help explain Mr. Calhoun's query as to why condors are seen passing his Lookout two or three days in a row then several days will lapse before condors are seen again. This also could explain why condor movements in the Murajo Valley and San Juan River were so sporadic this spring, even though the food supply was abundant at all times. This may also explain Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth's query why condors always come to feed on dead calves as soon as the heifers commence calving, but that after a few days they leave and are not seen again for some time even though much food would be available to condors, so long as the cows and heifers continue to drop calves which usually lasts for about 5

California Condor

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weeks.

I lunched at upper hunter-overflow campground. The couple who slept in their pickup truck last night were also here and having lunch. They had seen no deer. Had done no shooting. Thought they would never come to Frazier Mountain again to hunt due to the scarcity of deer.

I stopped at Chuchupate Ranger Station at the foot of Frazier Mountain grade and looked up Bill Harper who gave me the Condor Notes he had compiled in 1957-58-59 while he was Condor warden in the Fillmore, Sespe area. Bill Harper was happy to let us have the notes and is looking forward to the time when he can accompany Ian and ~~me~~ ^{me} into the lower Sespe and Hopper Canyon country to check on the known Condor nests he had under observation when he was patrolling the Condor refuge.

here

Mr. Harper told me he left the Condor warden job due to his having a chance at advancement in pay that would not be forthcoming should he remain in the position of Condor warden. He said he liked the job during the time he worked at it and that he was never unhappy with any aspect of the work he performed there.

Mr. Harper told me of knowing a fire warden who admitted having shot a Condor just to see what it looked like. Harper thinks Condor are shot on occasions. Mostly by people who know nothing of this bird.

Condor?

I drove to Gorman, on highway 99 - gassed up then drove to Old Ridge Route at Sandburg where I checked with Philip Goodell of L.A. Fire Dept. who had seen no Condor this year. I phoned Mary Stahl, attendant at ^{Liebre} ~~Liebre~~ mountain lookout who recorded a Condor on 22 July 1963 at 15:40 o'clock heading westward as it passed her station.

Condor

I drove to Neenach, in the Antelope Valley, where I checked with one shepherd who had seen no Condor. I camped for the

California Condor

Eben McMillan

21 August 1961

Promiscuous
shooting

Condor?
Antelope Valley

night on Northwest side Antelope Valley near the fence line of Tejon Ranch. Even though my camping place was as far removed from a well-traveled road as one could get in that area, nevertheless the ground where I camped was actually littered with shotgun and rifle shells of all Glass bottles had been shot at until they were scattered in small pieces all over the area. Any Can or other object that would pass for a target in this area were riddled with bullet and shot holes. I doubt that one could find an area more fully shot-up than is the case in the Northwest Antelope Valley area.

One shepherd claimed to have seen many large bills on the carcass of a dead sheep. I doubt that he was truthful in this claim for he was very vague about where and when the observation ~~occurred~~ occurred. At least I will not use it seriously unless this shepherd proves himself more reliable in the future.

~~The several shepherds in the Tehachas~~

It remained cool and windy throughout the night. Fog showed along the range to the south of the Antelope Valley. The heavy prevailing west winds here must be somewhat of a barrier to large soaring birds for I have not seen buzzards or Eagles out in the center of the Antelope Valley.

Shepherds in the Tehachapi Valley reported not having seen any condor in that area. I saw 25 plus buzzards and many raven in a stubble field east of the Tehachapi city dump where the carcass of a sheep was that had died five days before. Most of the meat was gone from the bones of this carcass that showed having been dragged about by many scavengers.

At lunchtime I watched Turkey buzzards passing out to the west from the eastern section of Tehachapi Valley. A strong west ^{wind} was blowing. It was moderately cool. The buzzards seemed capable of moving along into this stiff west wind at a pace of approximately ten to 15 miles per hour. They held an altitude of about seven or eight hundred feet above the valley floor but remained in the westerly wind current enroute for one could tell from the way they were buffeted about when trying to move crosswise to the wind current that it was quite strong. Their progress seemed quite steady in the face of this wind. They held a straight course up the center of the valley. No buzzards were seen moving westward along the sides of the valley with the exception of three buzzards that were progressing westward, very close to the ground, along the foothills on the south side of Tehachapi valley. These three birds were making slow progress westward. Their flight was very erratic being within three or four feet of the ground one moment, then fifty or sixty feet high the next. After gaining a mile or so of westward progress these three buzzards floated back eastward on the wind and after arriving in the lower part of

California Condor

Eben McMillan

22 August 1963

the Tehachapi valley, in the locality of ^{monolith} ~~monolith~~, they hereby reversed their progress to a westerly course again, climbed to a good elevation and then followed the westward course up the valley westward over the town of Tehachapi, and out towards Bear Mountain. These and the other turkey buzzards that traveled this route while I watched, seemed to increase their speed considerably after they passed over the town of Tehachapi. Air currents from both Cummings Valley and Tehachapi creek come together west of the townsite about one half mile. This may lead to more favorable flying conditions after the buzzards referred to reach this point in their westward progress through the Tehachapi valley.

Domestic Dogs, roaming the Tehachapi valley are a problem to shepherds. A fence ~~corrall~~ corral of woven wire must be constructed at each camp, in order to protect the sheep from these roving dogs during the ^{nighttime} ~~nighttime~~. ~~Coyotes~~ ^{Coyotes} do not bother sheep in the Tehachapi valley.

Game warden Tharp, of Tehachapi, told me of seeing a large bird in the Marcelene Flat area which lies ~~to the~~ between the Bear Mountain Road and the Comanche Point Road, going west from Cummings Valley about two weeks ago, that he thought was a Condor.

Driving to White Wolf Pass I met Jack ^{Tenzen} ~~Tenzen~~ the cowboy for Tejon Ranch who lives east of Arvin in a Tejon Ranch house and tends the cattle in the White Wolf area. Mr. Jensen thought the heifers he has in his care would commence calving about mid October. Should this foothill abortion show in these heifers this season they should commence calving within the next two or three weeks. Mr. Jensen will keep me posted.

Condor?
mistaken

*near Lake
Cholame*

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

27 August 1963

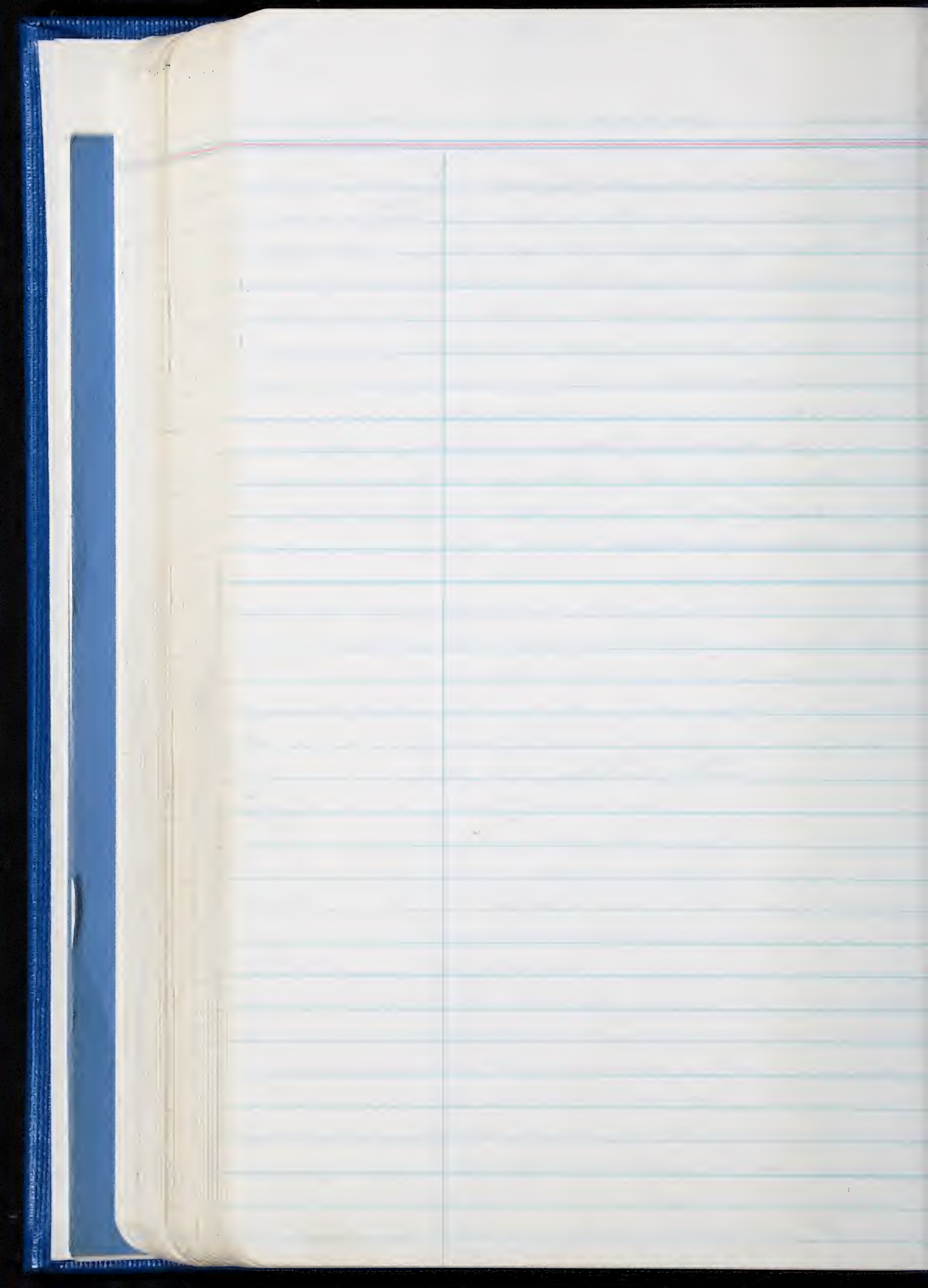
2329

I drove to Lake field of Spring ranch 8 miles Northwest of Cholame, S.L.O. County Calif. to check on the ^{offal} ~~offal~~ of a deer that Gregory Mcmillan shot last evening. NO Buzzards came to this carrion by 1:00 p.m. I loaded the offal in my pickup and took it home dumping it on the hilltop west of the chicken house above my house. Four Buzzards came to this offal at 3:15 p.m. and fed.

The wind was easterly - The Temperature warm -

here

It appears that Turkey Buzzards are not leaving their roosting places as early as was the case in early summer. I saw no Buzzards flying in the Cholame flats Today.



Evalyn Farnsworth wrote letter on August 26, 1963 that is filed with Condor correspondence. The following is a list of her observations. The place, her ranch, 3 mi. south of Glenville, Kern Co. Calif.

8/17⁶³ at 9:25 Young Condor circling over house

8/17⁶³ at 10:40 Two adults " " "

1 young - dim white along leading edge of wing

~~8/17 at 4:15 - 5 adults~~

8/17 at 3:50 - 1 adult over ~~house~~ house

8/17 at 4:15 - 5 " " " started N.W. Towards

Blue Mountain then turned due west as far as I could see them.

8/18 at 10:25 A.M. 2 adults sitting in bent pine

1 young but not the same one I saw 8/17

1 adult fed him in pine at 10:40 A.M.

8/18 at 4:05 P.M. 5 adults circling over barn

8/19 at 7:30 A.M. 1 adult + 1 young that was here yesterday sitting in dead pine 50 ft. east of where the one stayed all night when Mcmillan here.

(this pine was one of several dead pine that are west on the ridge from the bent pine - this about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of Farnsworth house) c.m.

8/19 at 9:35 - 4 adults circling over barn

8/19 at 9:40 - 1 adult left the others and sailed N.W. as far as I could see him.

It is interesting to note that Evalyn Farnsworth thought the young Condor she saw on separate days were different birds. I also thought this but it is possible the white under a young Condor's wings may show up differently at certain times of the day and under different situations.

It is also interesting that she saw an adult feed a young on the same bent pine in which I saw two adults, at what I took to be feeding young.



I was in Bakersfield by 8:30 A.M. Stopped at Kern County Department of Agriculture to check with Ben Easley, who attends to the squirrel poisoning in Kern County, to see about Bat Poisoning. He was out for the day. I stopped at the office of State Game Warden Clanton. He was not in. Opal Grimes, secretary ^{at} the U.S. Forest Service Offices, told me they had no late records of condor that were sent in by the five lookout personnel in the Greenhorn district. Opal Grimes ^{here} informed me she had not finished reading Koford's Life History of the California Condor ~~and wished to~~ that I had left with her two weeks ago, and wished to keep it a bit longer. To this I consented.

At 12:00 Noon I met Jack ^{Jentzen} ~~Jensen~~ in White Wolf Pass north of Arvin, Kern County, Calif. and found he had seen no condor although he had been watching the carcass of a heifer that had died north of the White Wolf Corral and been hauled to a ditch out of sight of the road and to which no condor, nor buzzards, had come to feed on. Jack Jensen stands ready to help us in any way he can. He said the Heifers in the White Wolf area will start calving the middle of October. I will keep a close watch on this area during that month.

Jack ^{Jentzen} ~~Jensen~~ told me of the Tejon Ranch Company sending out a notice to all employees advising them to carry guns and shoot all skunks, foxes, Badgers, Coyotes and other wild mammals for the protection of human lives, as a skunk with hydrophobia was supposed to have been found in the southern San Joaquin Valley area. ^{Jentzen} ~~Jensen~~ thought it foolish on the part of the Company to send out these notices and get people afraid of everything wild.

At the foot of the Rattlesnake Grade on the Rancheria Road I met John Roter who had seen ~~no~~ condor of late. Roter had been riding his range that extends from the Rancheria Road over the ridge and down to the Kern River below Democrat Springs. This is all good condor habitat and is a place where

many people have seen Condor in past years.

No one at home at the Record Ranch.

Helen King, of Oak Flat Lookout had seen no Condor since I was there last. Several buzzards circled above the Oak Flat Lookout at 5:00 p.m. Helen King thought buzzards were becoming scarce. She thinks some have gone south already.

(Condor sightings)

Stopping at the summer camp of Remic ~~Albitrie~~ Albitrie I found Remic at home with his four dogs - several horses many pigs, and a small flock of game chickens. Remic had seen no Condor this year. He claims to have seen a nearly every year since he was a young fellow, (he is now about 50 years old) in the foothill country below Granite Station and Woody. He could not remember ever having seen a Condor on Granhorn Mountain.

(Electrocuted Eagles)

He claims to have seen five or six Golden Eagles that had been ~~electro~~ electrocuted on the high power lines that run through the foothills in the Granite Station-Woody area. Golden Eagle remained spread across ~~electric~~ electric until it dried and fell apart. Mr. ~~Albitrie~~ Albitrie thinks Condors probably get ~~electro~~ electrocuted on power lines. He never saw a Condor dead near an electric power line. Remic Albitrie shoots hawks that bother his chickens, and Quail, that frequent his land. The Red-Bellied Hawk is the worst, he says. He also claimed that Squirrel Hawks (Red-Tailed) were bad on chickens once they get started. Mr. Albitrie also said that Eagles catch some young lambs as well as deer. He indicated his antagonism towards predators and probably shoots them whenever he has the chance; but probably not in the presence of others for one can tell from Remic's talk that he feels public opinion would not support him in this type of thinking. He knows hawks and owls are pro-

(predators)

California Condor

Eben McMillan

28 August 1963

2329

condor situation - problems

Remic Albitrie did not know that young Condor were black in color and could be mistaken for a Golden Eagle. Neither did he know that Golden Eagles were protected by Federal Law.

only

Condor

Jeff ~~Hitchcock~~ Hitchcock, who lives at the foot of Rattlesnake Grade, came to visit Remic Albitrie at 5:15 P.M. Jeff Hitchcock was born some 70 years ago in the country below Calaveras Hot Springs. Mr. Hitchcock saw Condor commonly in the California Hot Springs Area when he was a boy, much more common than they have been in later years. About 60 years ago, in his presence, Jeff Hitchcock's older brother shot a Condor with a 38 caliber rifle. The Condor flew about one-half mile after being hit and landed in an oak tree; but it soon fell from this oak tree to the ground. Mr. Hitchcock said both he and his brother stretched the Condor out between them and it was a huge bird. Evidently they took the Condor to some habitation for he (Jeff) said it was measured and he could not remember for sure ^{which,} but that its wing span was either Nine or Eleven feet. Either of these figures could be acceptable for most Condor would span Nine feet and probably well stretched a large one could be made to span close to Eleven feet.

members

Jeff Hitchcock is a brother-in-law of John Roper. Jeff thinks Condor are scarce now. He seldom sees them.

At the Hugh Smith summer camp on Greenhorn Mountain I met Jim Dean who works for Charlotte Smith and her sister on their ranch near Woody. Jim Dean and his wife had driven to the Smith Camp this evening to attend to the chores for the Smiths who were away and would not get back until late tonight. Jim Dean told me of seeing many Condor in the fall of 1946 on the west slope of Breckinridge Mountain on the Rankin lease of the Rudnick Interests. Mr. Dean thought that flocks -

condor

california Condor

Eben McMillan

28 August 1963

Food

direction of flight

of up to Twenty Condor came to the Breckenridge Mountain API that fall season to feed on the carcasses of cows that the Rudwick interests had shipped into that area in a weakened condition and resulting in a good many of them dying before green grass came. Jim Dean told me that he always noticed that these Condors when finished feeding, sometime as late as 6:00 PM, would circle up high and head southwest in the general direction of the Wheeler ridge, that is near the mouth of Grapevine Canyon on highway 99. Mr. Dean supplied this information with no prompting from me, nor did I ask for particulars of his observations as to which way these Condors left the west Breckenridge area when finished feeding.

From his general description of Condors I think there is little doubt but that Mr. Dean knows Condors. He has seen no Condor in the Woody area during the past three years he has worked there for Charlotte Smith and her sister - Mr. Dean thought I should see Andy Chappin who tends cattle for Camp and McBane, who now have the Rankin lease on the southwest slope of Breckenridge Mountain and who could probably give me information on Condors in the event any of the birds come to this area this fall.

Mr. Dean will keep on the lookout for Condors and keep ~~any~~ records for me on any observation he might make.

? }
here }
I Camped last night at Davis Campground on Greenhorn Mountain. Before going to bed last evening I talked to three of the fire crew who are stationed at this camp. Two of them had seen Condor while visiting Helen King at the Oak Flat Lookout one day several weeks ago. They only knew of Condor through Helen King and without this information would not know such a bird existed.

Davis

It was cold last night at ~~Davis~~ Campground.

here

I was at the intake Lake where Southern California Edison Company diverts the water from Kern River along the mountainside whereby it can be used to drop through penstocks to turn the hydro-electric turbines of the powerhouse 8 or 10 miles above Kernville on Kern River, at 9:15 AM.

Mrs. Lila Lofberg lives near this intake and she has been noted for her interest in the outdoors, having written papers on the behaviour of Coyotes in winter, and also the author of a book called Sierra Outpost. Mrs. Lofberg, although spending the greater part of her 65 plus years in the Kern River and high Sierra Country, has never seen a Condor nor has she ever talked to anyone who has seen Condor in the Kern River area.

Condor? Mrs. Lofberg thought the personnel of the U.S. Forest Service in Kernville could help me out. She told me of an article that appeared some years ago in the bulletin of the Southern California Edison Company, that carried a photograph of two employees of the Edison Company holding a stretched out Condor that they had found in the ~~Lebec~~ Lebec area. The bird, according to the account had become gorged with carrion and being unable to get off the ground was caught and photographed by the two employees. An article also accompanied the photograph. Mrs. Lofberg will try to locate and send the article to me.

I stopped at the Office of the District Ranger of the U.S. Forest Service in ~~Kern~~ Kernville, California & Mr.

California Condor

California Condor

29 August 1963

Condor?
Not used

Burt Hutchison who had seen what he thought was a condor over Bald Mountain some 20 miles to the north of Kernville. Owing to the skepticism on the part of Mr. Hutchison as to the positive identity of this Condor it probably should not be used as a valid observation.

Ranger Hutchison was formally out of the San Luis Obispo Office and spent three years at the Pozo Ran Station in San Luis Obispo County, so he probably has seen Condor. But I doubt his interest in these birds would last beyond the time I left his office.

Burt Hutchison has had no records of Condor sighted come into his Office. He thinks any information regarding Condor observations would be funneled into the Headquarters Office of Sequoia National Forest in Porterville, California.

I arrived at the Tobias Peak Lookout at 2:00 P.M. A Mrs. Lydia Rogers attends this station and claims to have seen Condor in past years. She thought that a bird that passed her Lookout on August 20-1963 could be a Condor. She did not know of the white under the wings of adult Condors and had always identified them by the palm effect of the Outer wing primary. Mrs. Rogers has been employed during the fire seasons at Tobias Peak for five years. She sent in Condor reports in former years but has not made out reports on Condors sighted for the last two years.

According to Mrs. Rogers, the stockmen who have grazing leases on the National Forest Lands in the Tobias Peak - Sunday Peak area are now busy getting their cattle off the ranges for fear that some animals will remain on the mountains when Deer hunting season commences. Should ~~the cattle~~ they not get the livestock down to lower private pastures before deer hunting season commences then the chance

Hutchison

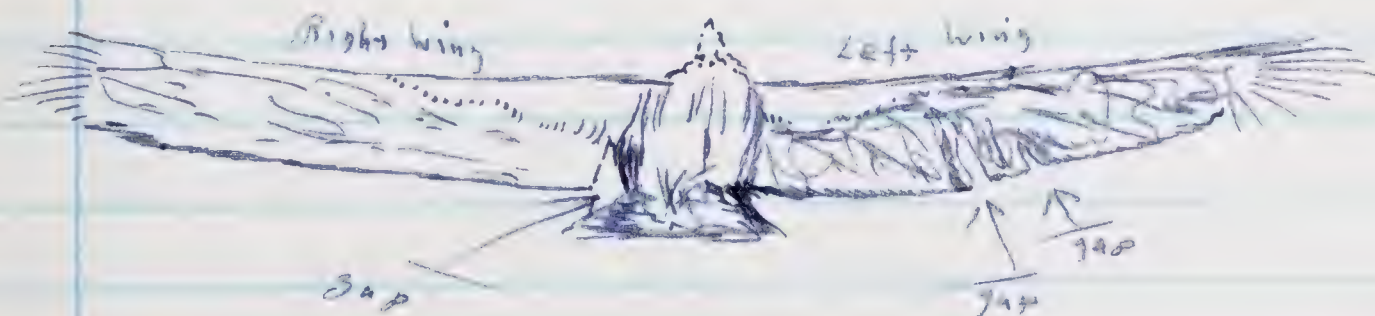
of their cattle getting shot is quite hazardous.

The ~~Vincent's~~ ^{Vincent's} and the ~~Bowens~~ ^{Bowens} run cattle on Tobias Peak.

Mrs. Rogers consented to keep records of any Condor she might see passing her Lookout that she can positively identify.

Mrs. Farnsworth was not home when I arrived at her home at 4:40 p.m. The Farnsworth's hired man Bill was loading hay on a pickup truck. He told me of seeing one Condor on 27 August circling to the East of the Ranch buildings at 3:00 p.m.

At 4:45 p.m. an adult Condor appeared circling up out of the flat that lies just west of the Farnsworth home. Several buzzards also circled up from the same spot. The Condor showed no signs of having fed heavily for no gap could be seen in the breast feathers. This Condor, an adult, had a pattern of missing feathers that I had noticed on an adult Condor at this same location on August 14 and 15. The left wing of this bird had a large gap in about the center of the wing and a smaller gap about the distance of 4 or 5 inches farther out towards the end of the wing. The right wing was intact except for a good sized gap between the body and the first secondary feather as if one or possibly two of the secondaries could be missing. Below is a rough figure of this adult Condor.



The above condor circled quite high while drifting eastward then at 5:05 p.m. it went into a flex glide and sailed off towards the South.

Mrs. Farnsworth called me at home at 8:30 p.m. and —

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

29 August 1963

Condor -

stated she had seen three condor to the south of her stone corral camp. she thought these condor would remain in the stone corral area overnight for as she was leaving that area she saw the birds come and alight in trees on a ridge to the west of the stone corral.

Mrs. Farnsworth will keep notes of condor activity about her place during the coming week.

California Condor

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8 September 1963

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The following is a copy of notes sent me by Evelyn Farnsworth relative to her observation of condor on the following dates.

9/2/63 = 10:25 A.M. one adult soaring at south end of Fulton road near Lumbeau creek.

9/3/63 = 10:17 A.M. one adult soaring over same area as above

9/5/63 = 9:55 A.M. one adult soaring over (Farnsworth) house.

9/5/63 = 5:05 P.M. Two adults soaring North of house. One took off from feeding on still born calf.

5:10 P.M. both left in direction of Gilliam spring, N.W.

all of these birds smooth wings - NO "gaposis"

9/8/63 mid-morning John Roper reported two over Bowen Hill.

9/8/63 - 4:40 P.M. Fifteen condor, high, circling east of barn. Two groups, seven in one and eight in another. Left to Northeast very high. Saw one young but couldn't identify any individuals.

9/8/63 = 5:10 P.M. Three circling over waterhole flat. May have been some of big group.

9/8/63 = 6:40 P.M. - six roosting in bent pine. Three in spindly dead pine several ^{hundred} ~~hundred~~ yards East of bent pine - and one in bushy green pine on West end of same hill.

In the group of fifteen saw one ~~individual~~ bird make four dives at another. Both flipped over when close together.

Condor?
in condor

+ this
as 15 birds
- 1mm.



Glenville

JFE

12294

2329

California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 September 1963

Ian came at 5:20 A.M. We left in my pickup for Farnsworth Ranch in Glenville, Kern County, California. Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth had phoned me last evening at 6:30 A.M. informing me that she had counted 15 Condor circling over their ranch buildings two miles south of Glenville last evening about 4:30 P.M. and stated she thought some of them were roosting on the hillside south of where they drag the carcasses of any of their purebred cattle that might die from one cause or another. I told Mrs. Farnsworth that I would be at her place early this morning.

helic

We arrived at the Farnsworth Ranch at 7:20 A.M. The morning was warm, bright and clear with a west breeze blowing at times.

Condor
7004

Six Condor were in sight ^{Perched} ~~Perched~~ in trees near the carcasses of two cows that had been dragged to the spot where the remains of other older carcasses lay and which spot is a dumping ground for dead cattle on the Farnsworth Ranch. The last of these carcasses had been dragged to this place sometime on the date of Sept. 6, 1963. Both of the later ^{carcasses} ~~carcasses~~ were stretched out with the feet under them and the backbone forming the high part of the bodies. One of these carcasses had been opened on the shoulder, ribs, and hindquarter with a sharp instrument. The last animal had not been opened but showed signs of having been fed on by carrion birds in the area about the vaginal opening that showed signs of having been much swelled and extended due to its death being caused by an unsuccessful parturition.

Two of the Condor were perched in a small dead oak that stood about 70 feet Northwest of the carcasses and perhaps ten feet higher by ground level than was the case with the carcasses. We could see no white bar on the back of these Condors wings - Their heads appeared to be dark and covered with down. We were looking at these two ^{birds} ~~birds~~ directly into the sun, and were seeing the dark, or shadowy, side of the birds. The other four Condor were perched in pine trees on the hillside to the south of the carcasses.

SEX?

At 7:35 A.M. Ian and I walked up canyon from where we parked pickup on knoll above road ~~just~~ Southeast of Farnsworth.

Continued -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 September 1963

Sex ?

home about 200 yards and flushed the two Condor in the dead oak near the carcasses. As these two Condor passed by us within 150 feet we could make out that they were adults. One of the Condor flew around ~~the~~ hill northward while the other perched around low ridge to the south. Both flew easily and appeared no problem gaining sufficient elevation to clear the ridges to the north and to the south.

Several Buzzards were feeding at the carcasses and only flew into nearby trees as we approached. Much sign of scavenging activity was in evidence about the carcasses. Most of the feeding seemed to have been done through the cuts on the second carcass and through the vaginal orifice on the more recent cow. Much putrefaction was in evidence with both recent carcasses and maggots formed a layer that covered the ground several inches deep around the very edge of the carcasses.

At 8:30 A.M., after climbing upon a rock that protruded above the trees on the ~~north side of the~~ south hillside above the road that continues on up the canyon east of the Farnsworth Ranch buildings, I saw an adult Condor in digger pine to my north-eastward and across the canyon and on the north side of the above mentioned road. I am quite certain this was the Condor that flew around the hill northward after we flushed the two Condors from the dead oak near the cow carcasses a short time before. A few minutes later, from a point near where we had left the previous day, I saw another Condor to the south, near the top of the ridge and only about 150 feet west of the large water tank that has only recently been constructed by the Farnsworths about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of their home. This Condor was also perched in a small digger pine tree. I also feel sure this Condor was the one, of the two, that Jan and I flushed near the carcasses sometime

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earlier and had flown around the ridge to the south - while the Condor that flew around the ridge and lit in the pine to the northward probably gained less than 50 feet in elevation in the exchange of perches from the Oak to the pine - this last bird that flew out to the south gained three or four hundred feet in elevation in its exchange of perches; and this must have been accomplished with little or no circling for both Jan and I saw no more of this bird after it disappeared from sight behind the hill to the south and would have been forced to return into our field of vision had it done any circling.

here

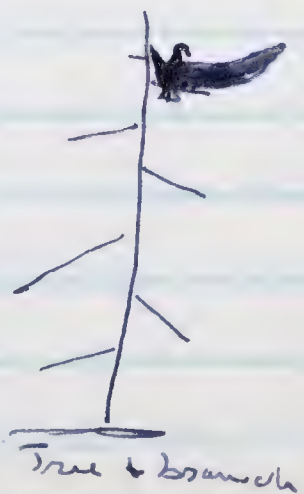
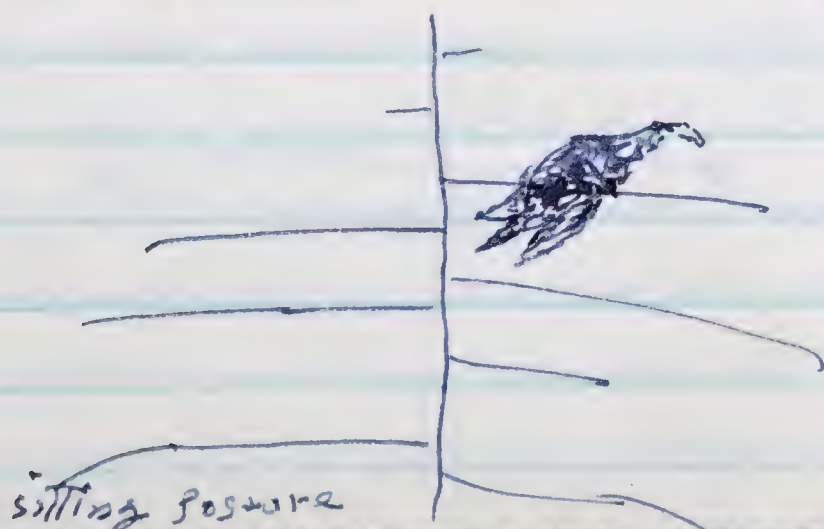
At 9:00 A.M. buzzards commenced to leave their perches and fly out westward and circle over the flats west of the Farnsworth ranch buildings.

Seven Condor were perched in trees in the general area at 9:00 A.M., at least two of which were young birds, one a ring-neck and the other a blackheaded bird.

One of the seven Condor above mentioned was perched in bent pine.

At 9:20 A.M. another Condor came in high, then let down by dipping the point of one wing and sideslipped in and lit on bent pine above the other bird ^{that} ~~that~~ was perched. As this Condor flapped to light on tree the roosting Condor left, circled once then re alighted on branch in center of tree.

At 9:30 A.M. a Condor that had been perched in a dead pine on the horizon, to the Southeast, stood up from a sitting position it had held for the last half hour, on a small branch that looked to be no bigger than a one inch ~~pipe~~ pipe - See diagram below for posture of this Condor while sitting.



Continued

California Condor

Eben McMillan

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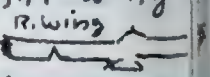
After standing up this Condor alined, or sunned one wing at a time. This was necessary due to the tree trunk preventing the inside wing from being stretched out. In order to circumvent this problem the Condor after sunning one wing would revolve itself on the limb then sun the other wing, which after turning around was now on the outer side of the trunk. See diagram on preceding page.

At 9:35 A.M. An adult Condor flew into the dead pine where a black headed Condor and a ring-necked bird had been perched. This adult alighted on the same limb as the ring-necked bird sat and after some crowding and flapping of wings the ring-necked bird flew to another pine 200 yards southwest and lit in among the branches where I could see it no more.

At 9:40 A.M. an adult Condor with big gap in its left wing came pumping out of the canyon, passed over me and commenced circling over Farnsworth buildings.



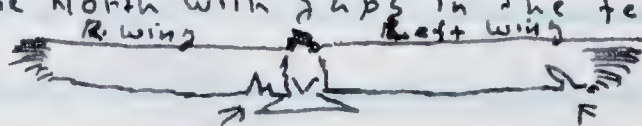
At 9:42^{A.M.} adult Condor with gap in center of right wing came out of canyon pumping and commenced circling.



At 9:43 A.M. an adult Condor with no missing wing feathers came out of canyon and joined the other two that were circling above us.

At 9:50 A.M. an adult Condor from the bottom position on ^{bent} pine flew out to the eastward and dropped from sight behind hill. I did not see if feathers were missing from its wings.

At 9:50 A.M. another adult Condor came over me from the North with gaps in the feathers of both wings.



I feel quite sure this is the Condor that flew North and lit in pine tree North of road leading up canyon past Farnsworth barn early this morning when Jan and I flushed the

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Condor from the dead Oak near the Cow Carcasses at 7:35 A.M.

At 10:00 A.M. the young black headed Condor, that had been sitting in the dead pine, climbed upward through the branches of this pine, using its wings to hold onto small branches and also using its neck and head to hook onto small branches until it reached the top of this tree when it then hopped out and came pumping out of the Canyon. As this young Condor climbed up through the branches of the tree much white coloration could be seen under the wings. This white did not show up so definite as it flew but it did show considerable white under the wings in flight. This young Condor kept well to the south side of the Canyon not coming close enough that I could see any spot in the wing.

At 10:05 A.M. the adult bird that had been perched in the small pine about 200 feet west of the water Tank on top of the ridge to the south flew out and down the Canyon where it joined several of the other Condor that were now circling the area, some now quite high. This bird's wing pattern is as follows



At 10:10 A.M. the last remaining adult Condor that had been perched on top of bent pine now flew out westward and commenced circling for elevation. This Condor had no flaws in its wing feathers.

It is worthy of note here that one of the Condor that flew out of the Canyon this morning had to be the ring-necked bird. In that I could not see just where each Condor came from when I first saw them pumping out of the Canyon, due to the fact that only when I would hear the swish of their wings as they beat the air would my attention be attracted to the area where they were flying, made it impossible for me to check on individual birds. Therefore it

Condor

- Continued -

California Condor

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should be assumed that the ring-necked bird must have had all the color characteristics of an adult bird, especially the white under the wings, for the notes took on each bird as they came out of the canyon had no mention of any difference in the plumage color of any of the birds excepting the young black-headed bird that was seen from the time it commenced climb up into the top of the tree for a jumping place. From this I would say that except at close distances any young Condor, excepting black headed birds, can be easily mistaken for an adult bird. Adult Condor can be easily told, or distinguished, from ring-necked or younger Condor when the head can be plainly seen; but a ring-necked bird when perched, on a cool morning, with the black ruff of the neck drawn up to the base of the skull is very difficult to distinguish from a black-headed bird even though one has the opportunity to see the white under the wings. When young Condor are sunning themselves with wings outstretched aging can be most difficult also.

At 10:30 A.M. the sky was clear of large birds except a lone buzzard that drifted by from the north. a cool wind was blowing.

At 10:40 Several buzzards came from the North and alighted in both Oak and pine trees that grow along the top of the ridge south of the canyon where the carcasses lay. Four ^{or} ~~five~~ buzzards circled the bottom of the canyon above the carcasses.

At 12:45 P.M. Three Condor came in from the south alighted in bent pine, on ridge, south of carcasses. They perched in this pine for five minutes then flew out

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to the south circling as it went and passed from sight behind the southern horizon.

Single Condor came and went from time to time throughout the afternoon. At 2:30 P.M. Ian and I took the Farnsworth Jeep and drove up canyon back of ranch buildings. A lone Condor was sighted perched in top of a dead pine on top of ridge ^{one quarter} mile west of bent pine - we drove to water tank on top of ridge south of Farnsworth ranch buildings. A lone Condor was seen circling above bent pine. The Greenhorn Mountain Complex that lays about five or six miles southeast and east of the Farnsworth Ranch could be seen plainly from the top of a hill south of the water tank that sets atop the ridge one mile south of the Farnsworth home. Large coniferous trees can be seen along the top of the Greenhorn Mountain and areas could be seen throughout this range where outcroppings of granite offered suitable nesting locations for Condor. Even though few sight records of Condor have come from the Greenhorn Mountain proper, I nevertheless feel this mountain chain is used as a roosting area; and possibly as a nesting site, on occasion. This Greenhorn summit would be two to three thousand feet higher than the Glenville area where the Farnsworths have their ranch.

At 3:30 P.M. a lone Condor came from the Southeast and circled high above the canyon where the dead cow carcasses lay. This bird soon moved on but northeastward. Buzzards came out in numbers about 4:00 P.M. and seemed to be interested mostly just in flying. I doubt that any birds fed at the cow carcasses since 8:00 A.M. today.

At 4:45 P.M. three Swainson's hawk were observed circling high above the upper reaches of the canyon in which the carcasses were. All three of these hawks were of the medium color phase that shows a white pattern under -

is hawks.

Condor

- continued -

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the wings much like that of an adult Condor. As these three Swainson's hawk circled high in the late afternoon light it could be easily seen whereby individuals who not ~~acquainted~~ ^{acquainted} with this hawk could easily mistake the for Condor. I am still thinking about Bert Snodden's 60+ sighting.

While I was watching the above mentioned hawks, Condor was seen with the glasses, at a great distance, from the southeast. This Condor came on until above the canyon of the Carcasses and circled there for several minutes until 5:00 P.M. when it gained altitude and drifted out to the East.

Ian and I camped on the knoll above the road that passes above the Farnsworth house and from where we had done much of our observing. Buzzards came in late evening and alighted in the trees along the ridge south of the canyon where the carcasses lay. After sunset the buzzards on the ridge moved down and perched in the pines and oaks one half way down from the ridge top to the canyon bottom. Some buzzards moved down and perched in the oaks near the carcasses. Odd buzzards were seen flying about at dusk and even when dark settled over the area some of these birds were still working their way downhill to roost.

A pygmy owl called from the canyon to the south at dusk.

Memorandum

P-302

California Condor

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The day broke clear and warm with little or no wind. Buzzards were observed flying to the area, where the cow carcasses lay, at sunrise. Some buzzards fed and flew to perches on south side of canyon before 8:00 A.M.

At 9:05 A.M. two condors were seen to circle and land in tall pines on ridge one-half mile west of water tank and a bit to the southwest of Farnsworth home. At 9:15 A.M. condors showed up circling behind hill where bent pine stands. At one time six condors were sitting in bent pine. Other condors came and alighted in pine trees on hillside above dead cows. One condor floated out over canyon, then let down by dipping inside wing, while circling, and alighted in dead oak near carcasses. Up to six condors fed on the cow carcasses this morning. A black-headed young was seen to come and beg of the first adult that dropped in to feed and then flew into a dead oak near the carcasses. When this black-headed bird approached the adult that had just fed the adult dropped to the ground in the area of the carcass to be soon followed by the black-headed young bird. When both of these birds reappeared they showed openings in the feathers of the breast as evidence that they had both fed, or been fed. It is of interest to note that of the six condors that fed on the carcasses this morning all were in pairs that were made up of one adult and one immature bird. The first pair to come from feeding on the carcasses flew and lit in a dead pine half-way up the hill to the south. This was the first adult that fed and the black-headed juvenile. Some minutes after these birds had ~~left~~ left the carcasses, another adult condor that had dropped in to feed came up out of the oaks pumping and flew down canyon alighting in a dead pine across the canyon from where we sat

CONDOR

here

- continued -

California Condor

Eben McMinn

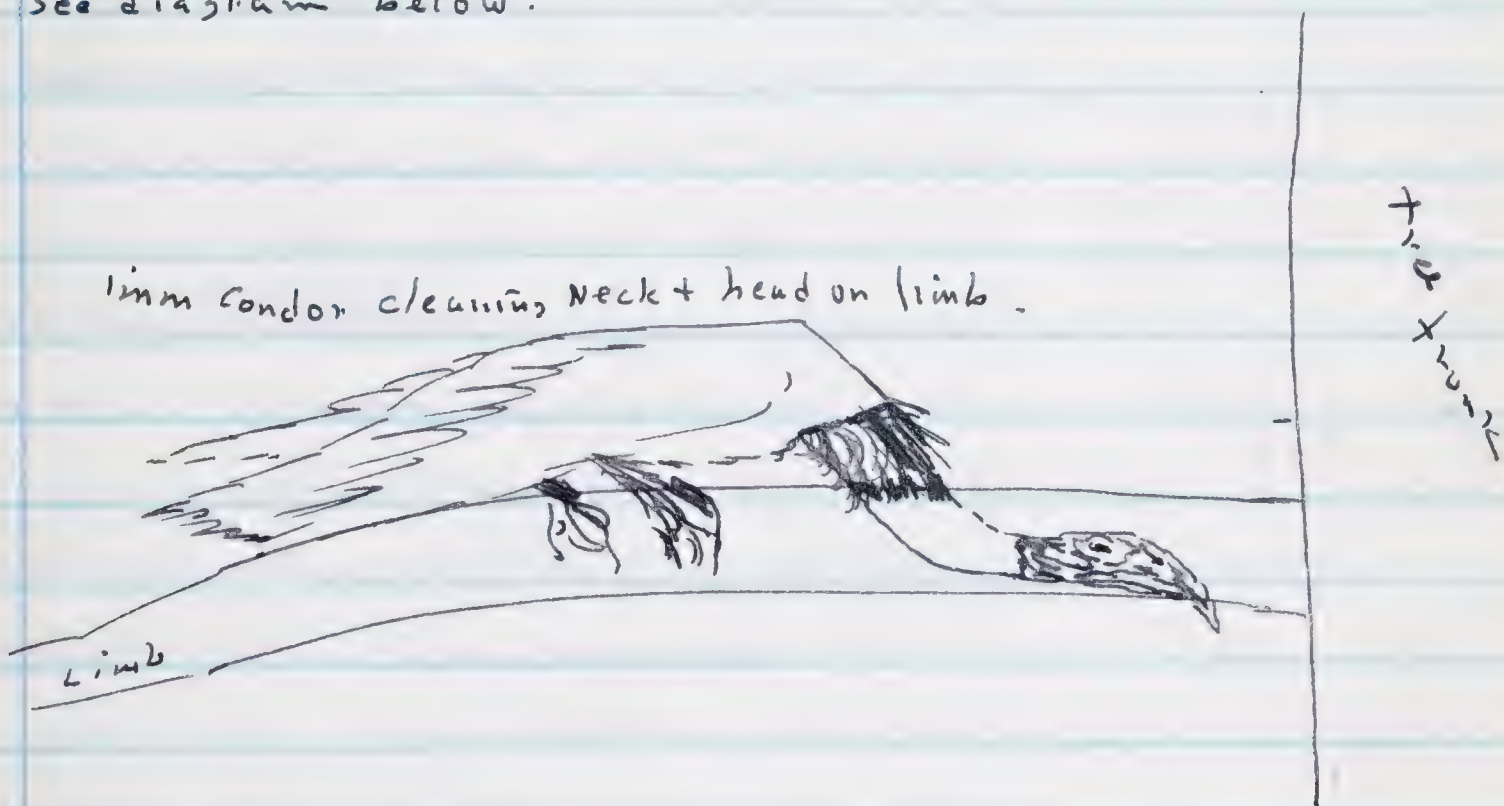
10 September 1971

watching, a distance of about 175 Yards from our position and also where the pickup truck was parked in open view. It is also worthy of that when circling the area ~~before~~^{before} dropping its food on the carcasses, the Condor would swing 200 Yards of this position where Ian and I sat out on open ground with the pickup truck in the open also.

Some minutes after the above mentioned Condor flew down canyon and lit in tree opposite us, another Condor flew from the area of the carcasses and pumping its way down canyon alighted on the same limb as did this former bird. It ~~was~~ was now we could plainly see that the last bird to come to this location was a ring-neck immature. It sat ~~to~~ the inside of the adult bird on the limb and farthest away from where we sat. This Ring-necked bird frequently stretched its neck out, and downward giving us a perfect opportunity to see the reddish pink of its lower neck contrasted against the black grey of its headskin that only showed the dark where it covered the skull bones. Another Adult Condor that had flown up from the canyon bottom where carcasses were and alighted on a dead pine snag above, and east, of the pine where the adult and black-headed young perched was now joined by another Condor that also flew up from below and ~~after~~ after alighting, showed plainly, as it cleaned its neck on the limb on which it sat, that it ~~was~~^{too} was a ring-necked bird. Thus three adult Condors sat in separate locations after having come from the area where the cow carcasses lay and each of them was separately joined by three immature birds.

that also had come from the feeding ground.

The Ring-Necked Condor that cleaned its neck on the limb on which it perched stretched its neck out to where it must have been at least twelve inches from the top of the neck ruff to the end of the beak. First one side of the neck and head ~~was~~ ^{was} run alongside the limb giving the appearance of a snake crawling. Then the opposite side of the neck was cleaned on the opposite side of the limb. see diagram below.



It should be important to note the following items observed this morning.

NO. I Only the black-headed juvenile was distinguishable from the adult condor before ~~the~~ ^{others} alighted in the trees ^{nearby}.

NO. II That each of the three ~~immature~~ ^{immature} condor perched separately with an adult condor after feeding.

NO. III That all condor that dropped down to feed had little difficulty rising above the oaks and clearing the area when they left the feeding area.

Condor — NO. IV That six other condor that entered the area did not go to the carcasses to feed.

NO. V That a Ring-Necked bird on a cool morning, or whenever it has its neck ruff drawn up, cannot be distinguished from a full black-headed condor.

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

10 September 19

All Condor left the area before 11:30 A.M.

As the condor that had fed flew out and commence circling it was difficult to distinguish between Ring-necked birds and adults, especially after they gained considerable elevation. At one time Ten Condor were circling above the point where the bent pine stands. One other condor had disappeared flew out to the east and the black-headed condor still perched in the tree it had lit in when it flew up from the feeding area. This accounted for a sure count of Twelve Condor. Two of which we knew to be immature ring-necked birds and one black-headed juvenile. As these condors left the area most of them sailed out to the west for about one mile then turned North and would have appeared to pass to the west side of Blue Mountain Lookout. After all the other condor had gone the black-headed juvenile flew out and circled the area for some minutes. It was here that at certain times we could plainly make out a spot-in-the-wing. After gaining considerable elevation this young condor followed nearly the course taken by several of the other condor with the exception that this young bird turned North a bit sooner and would have appeared to pass to the East of Blue Mountain Lookout.

9 recorded 12
Condor for the day
(with 3 imm)

I walked to the spot where the cow carcasses and photographed them in situation, then climbed the surrounding hills taking photos of the canyon in which the cow carcasses were and also a close-up of the bent-pine in which 5 Condor sat at one time this morning.

From the amount of feathers and down that I found under the trees in which Condor and

buzzards were known to perch and roost within the last three weeks I concluded that this is not a normal roosting area for very few feathers were found. Considerable down and feathers (small) were in evidence about the Cow Carcasses where the Condor and buzzards were presumed to have fed.

At 2:00 p.m. we drove to Glenville. The lady who served us in the ~~restaurant~~ restaurant there did not know of Condor. She nevertheless knew of deer hunters and regaled us with stories of the legions of hunters who will flood into Glenville the first weekend of the deer season. We drove on north in hopes of finding someone who had seen the Condor pass their way today.

The ~~personnel~~ ^{personnel} at California Hot Springs Ranger Station had no records of condor sightings in their area. They did tell us that a student from U.C.L.A. who was doing a course in photography and was doing his Thesis on photography of the California Condor had been to see them this summer inquiring where he could find Condor to photograph. They referred him to a location on the Tule Indian Reservation where one of the forest employees had observed a condor last year.

We stopped and talked to a Rancher feeding cattle in the foothills below California Hot Springs. He had not seen Condor recently. (this year). In 1961 the ranch for which he works lost 43 calves from 100 cows due to Foothill Abortion. The calves were carried by the cow for the full gestation period but would loose them at birth.

In the valley Northeast of Springville more than one hundred Buzzards were circling ^{at} about six o'clock in the evening.

We camped for the night on Blue Ridge near the State of California Department of Forestry lookout that is manned by a Mr. Pollard and his wife. They see Condor now and then from this lookout.



At a fruitstand east of Porterville the proprietor had a juvenile Red-Tailed-Hawk in a cage. He knew it was a Red-Tailed Hawk and he also knew that all hawks were protected. He knew that Golden Eagles were protected and that the offence for killing an Eagle would be a federal offence 5000 ~~00~~ dollars would be the fine and Jail term also. He also knew that Condor range in the foothills to the east of Porterville and he thought the offence for shooting a Condor would be ten thousand dollars and a jail term also. He thought any man that would chance shooting a Condor would have to be either crazy, or else a fool.

He did not mention having a permit to possess the hawk. I doubt that he has one.

In Porterville we stopped at the office of Eldon Ball, supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest. Mr. Ball had not been alerted regarding our Condor study. He stated that where many of his men, that work in the forests, are capable of making arrests, they, nevertheless, leave the enforcement of game laws up to the California Division of Fish and Game. Mr. Ball also stated that sightings of Condor in the Sequoia National Forest had been recorded for years but that no records were forwarded to his office in late years. He mentioned that when attending conventions of U.S. Forest supervisors the supervisor of the Las Padres National Forest is usually the brunt of jokes about his ^{Buzzards} ~~birds~~ (the Condors), but that in general activities of the service, Condors are no joking matter. He thought that Condor so seldom use the Sequoia National forest as a breeding and feeding ground that he felt any emphasis on their behalf to be unwarranted. He did state that he felt every effort should be made to insure Condor survival and stated that his own philosophy in this matter would be that all Americans must do their utmost to protect all vanishing species —

No Condor records
recent years

Los Jokes
Forest
supervisors

California Condor

Elden McMillan

11 September 1963

all out program to protect
condor if in trouble

for posterity ^{so} ~~and~~ that our children may see them, as well as leaving these things behind when we go on as evidence that we would think now, in terms of wanting to be recognized by those who follow us, as ~~Abstemious~~ ^{Abstemious} and temperate in our use of the things that were here when we came. If it is found that condor are in trouble, he thought an all out program should be put effect to insure their well being.

Elden Ball is a graduate of Oregon state with a major in science and a minor in Game ^{management} ~~management~~. He feels that his background should fit him for any role in the ^{management} ~~management~~ of wildlife that is apt to cross his desk.

My own personal feeling regarding Elden Ball is that he is the sort who, with public support, would prefer to see things done right, and that honest endeavour held as a goal of success.

Before stopping in Potterville, and it should have been ^{en} ~~en~~ before, we stopped at the Springville Ranger Station. ^{Person} ~~Person~~ there had seen Condor in 1963 in the Tule Indian Reservation and one young fellow claims to have seen a Condor nesting in a Redwood tree near Camp Nelson. Mr. R.F. Buttery, the assistant Ranger, at this station seemed interested in Condor welfare; in fact everyone at this station seemed interested in our mission and appeared to be ready and willing to help us in any way they could do so.

Between Ducor and the Fomos a Turnoff, on highway we stopped and chatted with Dillard Pittman, who is in ^{handling} ~~handling~~ charge of cattle ~~handling~~ for Joe Meadaborn, and who was fixing fence along the highway as we stopped. Mr. Pittman said he had not seen Condor in the area adjoining highway 65, but that he had seen -

Condor in the area at the west foothills of Breckenridge Mountain near the Breckenridge Road. He has seen Condor in the early spring months, sitting on the big, bald, hills that front the west foothills of Breckenridge Mountain and where Mr. Pittman cures for cattle when the green grass comes.

Dillard Pittman ~~Pittman~~ Pittman has been employed by the Mendocino interests for the last 16 years. He said that as a young person in Texas he never knew of Condor except what he picked up from the Text books in school, but that when they commenced putting out information on Condor he became interested and knew what they were when he first saw them.

Mr. Pittman saw a man shoot a Condor from the road (Breckenridge Road) about fifteen years ago. He said the man walked to where the Condor lay after he shot it and picked up a wing that Mr. Pittman said was very big. He saw this at some distance evidently for he did not mention talking to the man; nor did he say what became of the Condor Carcass.

Dillard Pittman has no good words for the people who hunt and shoot from the road. In fact he ~~dislikes~~ ^{despises} them. He told us of numerous instances where people shooting from the road have caused him much trouble. Just drive up the Breckenridge Road, he says, and inspect the water tanks and troughs that are within rifle range of this road and see if you can count the number of bullet holes in these water storage facilities. The holes in one tank he claims are too numerous to count. He thinks these people will shoot anything. They are crazy, he states.

Dillard Pittman will keep Condor records for us.



Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth called last night and said Condor had returned to her ranch late on the evening of 10 September and that they were still about yesterday. The following is a duplicate of Notes she gave me today—
 7:35 P.m. 9/10/63 four Condor roosting in dead pine east of Bent pine.

9/11/63—9:05 A.m. one adult (Condor) sunning wings on dead oak snag near carcass (cow carcass in canyon one quarter mile ^{here} East of Farnsworth house). Three adults feeding. Flew out—two lit in oak and pine west of carcass. One in low oak east of carcass.

9/11/63—1:40 P.m. one adult soaring over house.

9/11/63—2:50 P.m. four adult Condor feeding on still-born calf west of house (one quarter mile). One adult soaring. Quite a bit of fighting when the four were feeding. Jump at each other and flap wings. Ate eyes, one ear, and intestines, entering through navel.

9/11/63—3:55 P.m.—seven adults flew up from ~~where~~ near calf carcass. Two were perched in dead tree 50 feet from calf. A few minutes later counted nine soaring. Think one young. Couldn't be positive. Positively identified McMillan's gap winged bird flew low directly overhead. (this is the bird, I think, with the two gaps in the right wing close to the body and a large gap in the secondaries of the left wing just inside the primary feathers). Seven left NE, high and straight.

9/11/63—4:05 P.m. one adult soaring over Rock Corral. Didn't see where it went from there. (End of Mrs. Farnsworth's Notes)

Evelyn Farnsworth knows Condor. Her observations can be adjudged correct. It is of interest to note that another family of people live one quarter mile west of where Mrs. Farnsworth saw the seven adult Condor at the calf carcass yesterday afternoon. She thinks these —

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

12 September 1963

Neighbors never see Condor even though they have been circling over their house off and on for the last three weeks. I must visit these people and make sure of this for if they do not see Condor it is valuable information regarding the management of these birds in populated areas.

I was in Glenville at 7:40 A.M. at the Farnsworth ranch on the knoll above the road where I could observe the area where the carcasses lay. Buzzards were feeding, or at least dropping down in the Oaks where the carcasses and no Condor were seen in the area.

I rode to the top of hill near water tank south of Ranch buildings with Mrs. Farnsworth in her Jeep. We saw buzzards on the trip.

Evelyn Farnsworth thinks normal, healthy, cows will eat the placenta following birth of a calf. This would limit carrion food for Condor. A herd of cows that were suffering from some malady or malnutrition would leave many placenta for Condor and Buzzards.

I walked to the place where the seven Condors had been feeding on the stillborn calf yesterday. Carcass of this calf remained much as it had when Mrs. Farnsworth last saw it last evening. The ear had been eaten off. The left eye was gone. The Tail had been stripped of its hide and hair. The stomach had ~~been~~ been eviscerated through an opening at the Navel. Otherwise the body of this calf was intact.

50 plus buzzards came from the Canyon east of the Ranch house and alighted in a dead Oak that stood on a hill 100 yards to the west of where the dead calf carcass lay. I was sitting on a hill 200 yards to east of the calf carcass. The buzzards did not come

food
(not eaten)

food →

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

12 September 1963

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To feed on the calf, so thinking they were afraid of me I removed myself from the area and walked the quarter mile to the Farnsworth House. As I left the area of the calf carcass the buzzards all took wing and left the area also.

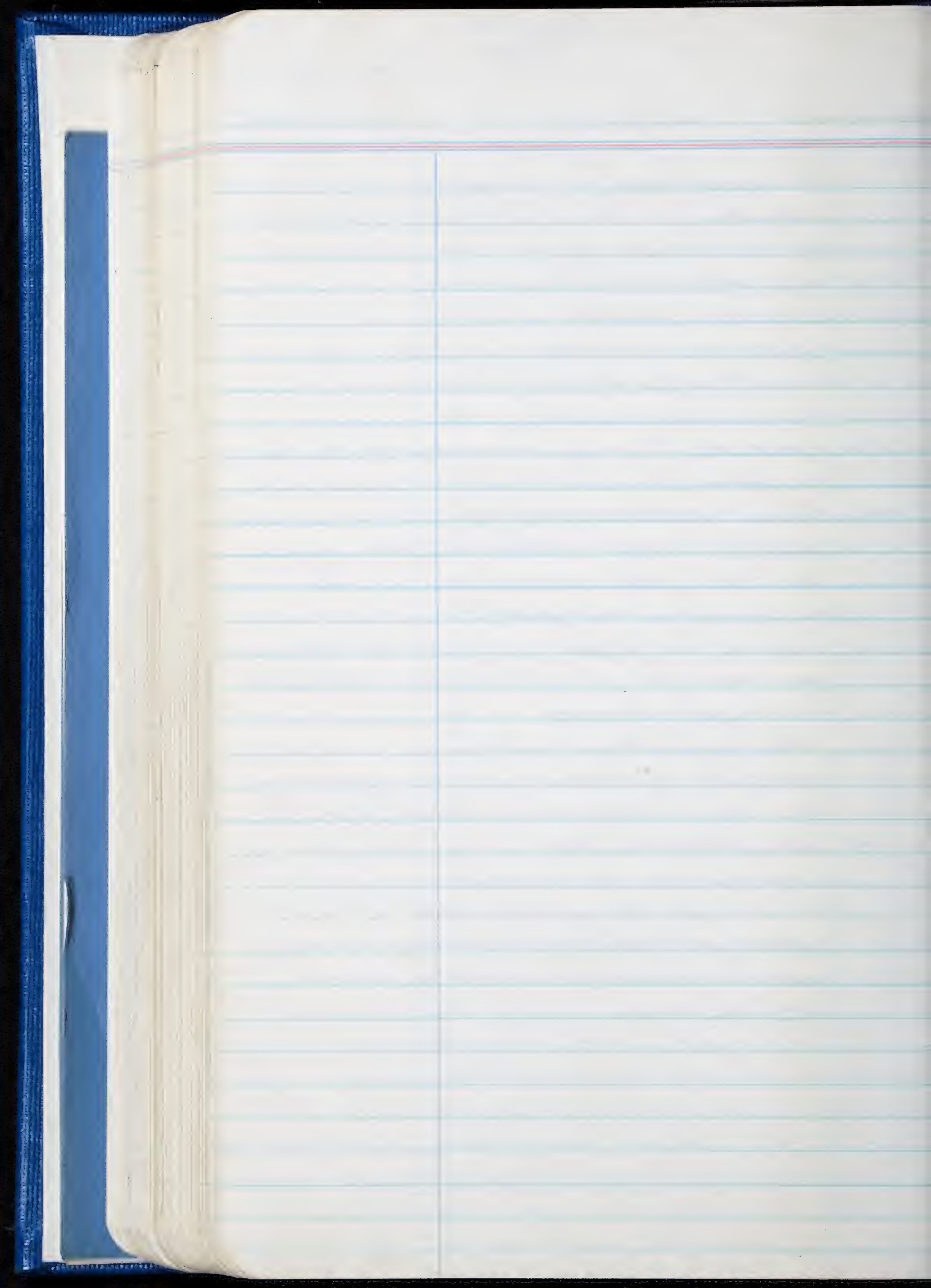
At 2:30 p.m. it had become close and warm. heavy clouds were building up overhead and thunder rumbled towards the west.

At 2:35 Two Condor were seen circling over the high point to the south of the Water Tank on the ridge one mile south of Farnsworth home. More Condor soon joined the two and at 2:37 p.m. Eight Condor were circling some distance to the southeast and behind the ridge where the bent pine stands. While still circling, but drifting south-eastward, these Condor passed from sight behind the bent pine ridge at 2:40 p.m.

Many buzzards were seen circling about the ridge tops to the south and east of Farnsworth home. some buzzards were flying extremely high.

At 5:10 p.m. no buzzards had come in to feed on the dead calf nor were any seen near the cow carcasses. Mrs. Farnsworth promised to keep a watchful eye for Condor and keep notes of their activities until I got back to Glenville again.

I arrived home at 8:20 p.m.



Enroute to Ventura, California I drove to White Wolf Pass North of Arvin, California where Mrs. Mcmillan and I had our lunch while watching the sky for condors and waiting to see if Jack Jensen, the Tejon Ranch Cowboy, who tends the cattle in the White Wolf area, would come to the corrals where he left his truck. We saw no large birds, nor cowboys, and after an hour spent here we drove to the home ^{of} Jack ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen}, two miles East of Arvin, where Mrs.

~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen} told us that Jack thought he had seen a condor about a week ago. She promised to get the exact date and time for me. here

We then drove south of Arvin and drove up the Sheep Trail road about three miles where we spent some time watching the sky for condors, but we saw nothing larger than a meadowlark.

Three Turkey Buzzards were circling the flat country at the mouth of Grapevine Canyon. Evidently there has been a movement of buzzards out of the south San Joaquin valley for usually one can see good numbers of these scavengers throughout the Grapevine and Wheeler Ridge area.

We drove to Castaic Junction, thence to Ventura, via Fillmore, and saw no buzzards enroute.



several Turkey Buzzards circled out of a grove of eucalyptus trees in the Santa Rosa Valley at 8:30 A.M. where, it appeared, they had spent the night. This place is about five ^{miles} ~~mi~~ East of Camarillo, California. We drove to Castaic Junction and visited the Dead Pit of the Newhall Land and Cattle feed lot where the bodies of five cattle were piled. Three buzzards were sitting on the ground, one quarter mile west of the dead pit. One buzzard and two raven were observed flying some distance south of the dead pit.

The day commenced cloudy and sultry with a mild west wind blowing. Smog lay heavy in the valleys of the Los Angeles basin. We drove from Castaic Junction to Chuchupate Ranger Station in valley to the west of Frazier Park where I met the District Ranger, Mr. Gary Plisco, who had just today taken over the District Ranger post at Chuchupate Station from Jack Williams, who had been transferred to the Klamath National Forest in Northern California. Ranger Plisco had no knowledge of the condor survey that Jan and I are doing. This may be due to his not having been availed of the information prior to becoming District Ranger. But it seems a bit strange for Plisco had held the position of assistant Ranger at Chuchupate Station for the last thirty months.

Gary Plisco said he has been seeing condor quite often this year, where in former years he had seen very few. Mr. Plisco said he has not been making any notes of these observations in that it was not the practice of the employees at Chuchupate Station to send in condor observations. He, nevertheless, stated his willingness to help us in any way he can and consented to see that any condor observations, in the future, by ^{Persolville} ~~person~~ under his jurisdiction, will be recorded and placed in a box in his office, for our use, whenever we happen by that way to pick these notes up.

We drove to the Lookout on top of Frazier mountain. ~~to~~ On the way up the mountain we talked a man who was

Plisco did not
if Condor
er

Notes Ranger

-continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 September 1963

Shooting at Condor

loading wood on a pickup at the roadside ^{He} told us that when he was hunting yesterday, on Mt. Pinos, he was with five hunters, who had 22 caliber rifles, shooting at a condor that flew over the area where they stood, the condor, fortunately, was high enough so that the small caliber rifles were unable to effect it.

Mr. Calhoun was on duty at the Lookout on Frazier Mountain when we arrived at 12:50 P.M. He gave the following notes on Condor he had observed since last I was at this Lookout Station.

Condor

- ✓ 8/22/63 - 12:34 - Two Condor - over Thorne Meadows
- ✓ 8/23/63 - 11:05 - Three Condor - south of Lookout
- ✓ 8/25/63 - 12:05 - Two Condor - west of Lookout
- ✓ 8/29/63 - 10:43 - one Condor - East of Lookout
- ✓ 8/31/63 - 14:20 - Two Condor - over Thorne Meadows
- ✓ 9/1/63 - 10:40 - Two Condor - over Alamo
- ✓ 9/8/63 - 18:25 - One Condor - over Grade Valle
- ✓ 9/12/63 - 10:55 - Nine Condor - over East Frazier
- ✓ 9/12/63 - 15:40 - Two Condor - over Thorne Meadows
- ✓ 9/14/63 - 8:10 - One Condor - " East Frazier
- ✓ 9/14/63 - 12:55 - Two Condor - " Thorne Meadows
- ✓ 9/15/63 - 12:00 - One Condor - " North Frazier

Hunters

foes

Condor

Unavailability

Mr. Calhoun said that deer hunters still plow the area during weekends and even this morning he saw three carloads of hunters working the area. He also said that a Mr. Corey ^{Ellingsbo}, who takes care of cattle that graze on top of Frazier Mountain, came upon the carcasses of two Doe Deer that had been shot by hunters on the south side of Frazier Mountain and left to the elements. Mr. Corey ^{Ellingsbo} told Calhoun that a Condor was in a pine tree near the carcasses when he found them. Mr. ^{Ellingsbo} ~~Corey~~ said he rode his horse under the tree in which the Condor sat without

the Condor flying. The next time Mr. ^{Ellingsbo} ~~Corey~~ rode by this area where the two Doe Deer Carcasses lay, he said he found them to be eaten up by Condor and Coyotes.

The fact that this Mr. ^{Ellingsbo} ~~Corey~~ observed a Condor in a pine tree near the Deer Carcasses that would remain ~~in~~ perched in the tree while he rode under the tree, attests to the vulnerability of Condor here during the Deer hunting season.

Mr. Calhoun said that A hunter was shot in the leg by another hunter, on Mount Pinos, yesterday. Mr. Calhoun stated that according to word received through the U.S. Forest Service, the victim had been sitting near the base of a pine tree. Another hunter seeing this sitting hunter move, fired a shot in the direction of the moving object to scare it so he could see what was doing the moving — The bullet hit a rock and glanced off entering the sitting hunters leg. This just another instance of the ~~carelessness~~ carelessness of persons who hunt deer in the National Forests Lands where Condor hunt for food throughout the Deer hunting Season, in Coastal California. The same is no doubt ^{similar} ~~same~~ during the later, or interior deer season.

At 2:05 Am, as we drove down from the Frazier Mountain Lookout, about one-half way down grade we saw an adult Condor come over the top of Frazier mountain, from the South, and soaring at a fast rate moved out over the Northwest slope of Frazier Mt. then turned somewhat to the Northeast and without stopping to circle, or even flap its wings — moved across —

-continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 September 1963

Speed of Condor flight.

Frazier Mt.
Tejon Ranch

The valley below and at 2:10 P.M. had reached and dropped from sight behind the forested ridge north of the town of Frazier Park. The distance this Condor traveled in the five minutes it was under my observation, according to distances on U.S. Forest Service map, ~~was~~ ^{was} a minimum of four miles air line.

While watching this Condor as it traveled north east at a fast rate, two adult Golden Eagles and ~~an~~ ^{an} immature eagle passed very high over us traveling very fast in a southerly direction. An immature Golden Eagle circled to the south of us, above the west face of Frazier Mountain at 2:15 P.M.

Condor
flightless Condor

Stopping at Headquarters of Tejon Ranch Company in Lebec I chatted with Henry Melendy - John Grigsby, Walter Fieguth and a Mr. Marvin Barnes, who stated he captured a Condor many years ago that had gorged itself of a dead cow fallen into a Canyon in its attempt to get airborne. Mr. Barnes claimed this Condor attempted to attack him when he went into the Canyon to capture it. He claimed to have held this as a captive for several days before turning it back to the wilds.

Condor
named

flightless Condor

Both John Grigsby and Walter Fieguth told of an experience that Perry Sprague, a former Superintendent of the Tejon Ranch Company, had when he roped a Condor that was also supposed to have ^{been} flightless due to over-feeding on a Cow Carcass. Sprague told them that when he roped the Condor it came at him and tried to peck him with its beak. Sprague was supposed to have loaded this Condor in the back seat of an open-topped automobile and hauled it to the Ranch Headquarters. An Indian was supposed to have let this Condor free a few days after its capture.

It appeared that a storm was building up this afternoon.

It was cloudy, calm, and warm this morning as I drove from home to Glenville. ^{Kern Co. Cal.} Arrived at the Farnsworth ranch at 9:30 A.M. One Buzzard was circling about the flat west of the Farnsworth house. No other large birds were in sight. Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth drove me to the west-edge of her property, below her house, where she pointed out to me the body of a calf that had been born dead yesterday morning, but on which no scavengers had as yet fed. She said that Buzzards were plentiful about the Glenville area yesterday and that condors were observed on several occasions throughout the days (see Evalyn Farnsworth report for September 14-15-16)

At 9:45 A.M., from a hill near the Farnsworth Home, I observed large numbers of Buzzards forming a towering column about one mile to the west. After circling for some time this group of Buzzards formed into a long scattered line and drifted southward. They regrouped again after flying about two miles and circled again for several minutes before stringing out and disappearing southward.

At 10:30 A.M. I drove to the Bosworth Ranch that is situated in the same valley as is the Farnsworth Ranch buildings. Mrs. Bosworth sr. is an elderly lady of perhaps seventy years. I informed her of my interest in condors and asked had she, or any members of her family, observed condors within recent weeks. She answered that the children thought they saw some condors at the reservoir a week or so ago. The reservoir is in a draw about one quarter mile northeast of their house. Mr. Bosworth sr. came in from the North, walking, and carrying a Buck-saw and axe. He informed me, upon being questioned, ~~that~~ that he had seen two condors lately, one on last Sunday when he saw this bird sitting on the big dead oak tree southeast of their home about one-quarter mile -

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMinn

17 September 1966

and adjacent to the Farnsworth Fence. He said he knew this bird was a Condor by its great size. He thought it stood three feet, or three and one-half feet high. The dead oak he ~~refers~~^{refers} to, and which he pointed out to me, is the same oak in which all the Buzzards were perched on September 12 when I was watching the Calf Carcass Mrs. Farnsworth had dragged into the flat, and the same oak in which several Condors were perched when Mrs. Farnsworth found some Condor feeding on this carcass on 11 September 1962.

Condor → Mr. Bosworth stated that he watches the hawks all time and only last week he saw a flock of about thirty Buzzards circling above the flat on the Farnsworth property ~~and~~^{and} at that time told his wife that some animal must have died up there on the Farnsworth Ranch to cause all those Buzzards to go there. He said the other Condor he saw was circling with some Buzzards about ten days ago above his home.

In that the Bosworth Home is only one-half mile ~~SW~~ west by northwest from the Farnsworth Home and in the valley where hundreds of Buzzards, and up to fifteen Condors, have circled on numerous occasions during the last month, it seems strange that some member of the two families who live here did not see Condor more than three occasions. This points up the fact that unless someone is particularly interested in birds, Condor can pass over, and even feed regularly within one-quarter mile of ^{human} habitation and not be recognized.

The Mister Bosworth Sr. told me of his interest in wildlife and wondered how many Condors still survive. I answered his question by stating that no one knows many Condors still survive; but that one can be

Glenville

P-320

- Continued -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

17 September 1963

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hunting -

sure they are not multiplying rapidly. His answer to this was to the effect that the wonder is that anything exists in the hills anymore with all these damn hunters all over the place who will shoot at anything and then laugh at a law that would restrict them from doing so.

Condor

I drove to the Jim Beard Ranch that is located about one mile west of the Farnsworth Home and here in the same valley. Mrs. Beard had heard of my being in the area and the extent of my mission. She had, therefore, made note of a condor sighting on September 8, 1963 and gladly furnished me with the results. It seems that the Jim Beard family were enjoying a visit at the Maddux home which is located about three quarters of a mile north of the town of Glenville on Sunday afternoon, 8 September, 1963 when at 5:00 P.M. some member of the swimming party mentioned that among a flock of Buzzards circling overhead there appeared to be two birds much larger than the rest. Mrs. Beard said they must be Condors. A doctor from Los Angeles, who was a member of the party, and who ~~an interest~~ professed an interest in birds, consulted his field guide and from this all were satisfied of Mrs. Beard's identification. These were the first Condors that Mrs. Beard had ever observed and been sure of the birds. She said the sighting of these Condors was a great thrill to all who saw them at the Maddux home.

value -

Mrs. Beard has lived in the Glenville area for many years. The fact that this Condor sighting at the Maddux home was the first time she had positively identified these birds is all the more unusual in that -

- continued -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

17 September 1963

Condor have flown over her home many times in the last month when coming to, or going northward, from the feeding area on the Farnsworth Ranch.

food →

Mrs. Beard stated that a Doe Deer had died about one mile to the west of their home last week and that nothing had come to feed on it.

Another flock of Buzzards came into the area of the Farnsworth Ranch at 1:30 p.m. They circled the hill-top for several minutes then circled upwards in a tight flock and stringing out passed out to the south. A regrouping of this flock took place when it reached ridge to the southward about two miles. After circling upward they again stringed out and disappeared behind the ridge heading south along the west front of Greenhorn Mountain.

A few Buzzards remained in the area throughout the day, spending a good deal of the time perched in the Bent Pine and neighboring trees. No feeding was observed to take place by these Buzzards.

The weather remained cloudy, sultry, and calm throughout the day. At 5:30 p.m. a Horned Owl called many times from the Oak timber to the west of the Farnsworth Home.

(food
was used)

Driving to Glennville this morning I noted that many more cattle were in the fields along the roadway from the foothills east of Famosa on up to Glennville. The greater portion of these animals were cows many of which were heavy with calf. It would appear that the calving season, having now commenced, will furnish Condor with a plentiful supply of food during the next two or three months, for a percentage of the calves dropped during this period will be either still-born or else succumb to one of the many problems.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

17 September 1963

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that confront a new-born calf in the first hour of its life.

The following are Condor observations turned in to me today by Evalyn Farnsworth.

9/14/63 - 3:55 P.m. one adult made long south to north loop east of barn and disappeared sailing due south over ridge east of tank.

9/15/63 - 11:05 A.m. three came up from area of Cow Carcass and circled over flat by house.

9/16/63 - 7:50 A.M. one soaring over hill south of cow carcass and sitting in Bent Pine about ~~three~~ thirty minutes.

9/16/63 - 10:45 A.M. one soaring over flat west of house.

9/16/63 - 2:30 P.m. Three west of Rock Corral headed Northwest Towards house.

9/16/63 - 4:40 p.m. three sailing high and straight North, or maybe a little west of North. Stormy

clouds nearly all day. Never saw birds acting as if they intended to feed. Neither Buzzards, nor Condor, touched New Stillborn calf west of house.

Another huge flight of Buzzards left about 6:00 p.m., circled here and then sailed straight north over Glenville and circled again. were sailing NW last we could see of them.

Mrs Farnsworth gave me a copy of The Farm Tribune, a weekly Publication published in Porterville, California - in which Photographs and an article were printed on the front page regarding Condor that had been found feeding near Ducoli, California during the week of Thursday, June 27, 1963 the date of publication of this paper. This publication is

at dawn
under at
mouth on 16th

here

food

condor

-Continued-

california condor

Eben McMillan

17 September 1963

herewith entered as Item NO. 7 in my collection of specimens

It rained quite heavily throughout the night at the Fulton Ranger Station where I spent the night in the shed barracks with the three remaining members of fire suppression crews.

On the bulletin board, in this shed-barracks at Fulton Ranger Station, was tacked a placard, V-2304-B, that was printed in Chicago by the National Safety Council, and on which was printed, in bold red and white letters, this caption, Birds Headed for Extinction. Along with this caption were cartoons characterizing reckless drivers as some form of bird and titled in this order: Ruffle Fendered Tail Gater, Migratory Weaverbird, and Hill-passing Swift.

The above, to me, seemed out of place in an area where one of America's rarest birds is making its last stand. To be Buffooning such a serious subject as vanishing birds, especially, as this would effect the dignity of this matter in the minds of young people working in our United States Forest Service, only reflects the philosophy of those in charge of such matters. It is small wonder that, as Elden Ball, Supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest stated to Ian and I, when we were in his office last, that Supervisor of Las Padas National Forest, Mr. Hansen, is usually kidded about his Buzzards when Forest Supervisors convene together.

The above placard is entered as Specimen NO. 8 in the Collection of Eben McMillan on 20 September 1963.

I drove to home of Tim Ben Williams at 9:00 A.M. Both he and his wife furnished me the following:

On 12 September when coming home from —

Condor

California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 September 1963

Condor

Condor
food1 mm

Feathers

Condor

food

Granite Station way Mrs. Jim Ben Williams saw one Condor circling above the high hill northeast of the cattle guard where the road into the Williams turns off highway going from Granite Station to Glenville. On 13 September 1963 when returning home over the same road at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Williams saw five Condor circling west of the road about half way in from the highway to her home. She drove home and returned at 3:00 p.m. with Jim Ben Williams accompanying her in the Jeep. The two Williams drove directly to where the five Condor still circled and came upon four more Condor feeding on the carcasses of twin calves that had been dropped sometime yesterday. They came upon the four feeding Condor unexpectedly and were within ~~thirty~~ one hundred feet of them when they first saw the Condor and the Condor saw them. The Condor's, being surprised with the sudden appearance of the Jeep, made haste in getting air-borne. Much flapping was done as the four birds maneuvered out through the small oak trees that grew nearby. In a matter of minutes Condor had disappeared from the scene.

The Williams thought they saw two dark colored birds among the ~~ten~~ nine Condor. Also, they felt one appeared much larger than the others and the white under its wings showed much cleaner and brighter.

Mrs. Williams picked up three Condor feathers from near where the birds had been feeding. They are entered herewith as specimen No. 9 in the collection of Eben McMillan.

Jim Ben Williams told me he first heard of Condor from his father who called them vultures. That about fifty years ago his father came upon four or five Condor eating a dead dog near the road where it now passes by the

Granite Station

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- continued -

California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 September 1963

2329

History

Carl West home, Two miles west of Granite Station. The elder Williams told Jim Ben and the other children of seeing these four or five vultures when he arrived home.

History

Jim Ben Williams told me he first saw Condor in the summer of 1922 when he worked poisoning squirrels on the Tejon Ranch. 1922 was a very dry year, according to Jim Ben, and here the Tejon Cattle were dying quite often. He remembers seeing Cattle Carcasses on which seven or eight Condor would be feeding. In a circle ringing the Carcass and at a safe distance from the Condors would be lots of Buzzards, then, in another outer ring would be many Raven. When the men on horseback would dash ~~at~~ towards this gathering of birds the Buzzards and Raven would spring directly into the air; but the Condors they would labor for some distance, beating up dust as they flapped their wings, before getting air-borne. Jim Ben Williams has no recollection of seeing dead Condor, nor of seeing anyone shoot at Condor.

food

Condor food

I stopped at the home of Warren and Frances ^{Stockton} ~~Stoctor~~ who live on the Woody-Granite Station Road about three miles north of Granite Station. Mrs. Stockton informed me they had seen four condor feeding on the carcass of a dead cow during the latter part of July. In fact she thought it was about the same time that I saw the two Condor over the Grisbale home - That could have been on 10 July 1963

The following is how the Stocktons described to me the experience they encountered in finding a sick Condor on their property in late June of 1960 and of it subsequently dying —

State Condor

-Continued-

California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 September 1963

Sick Condor,

in the care of a veterinarian in Bakersfield, California.

ON or about 24 June ¹⁹⁶⁰ ~~1960~~ the son of Warren and Frances Stockton came upon a Condor near the water hole that is just across the roadway and down valley about one quarter mile from the Warren Stockton home. The son came to the Stockton home and informed his parents that the Condor was at the water hole and apparently could not fly. The elder Stocktons returned to the water hole with son and attempted to drive the Condor up ^{ONTO} ~~up~~ a nearby hillside in order that it could get air-borne should lack of a launching site be the trouble. But even with a downhill start the Condor could not ~~just~~ get off the ground. Mr. Warren Stockton told me he shot at least two Cottontail Rabbits which he was quite sure the Condor ate. The son was also supposed to have fed rabbits to this Condor.

The Game warden was informed of this Condor's. On 27 September two men, one a Game warden from Bakersfield, came and Tossing a canvas over the Condor took it to the Mona Carver residence where Mrs. Carver banded this Condor and from there was taken to the office of a veterinarian in Bakersfield and where Mr. Stockton heard it subsequently had died.

Warren Stockton said the above mentioned Condor never at anytime showed signs of being pugnacious when they were around it. It always appeared docile, he told me. He thought this Condor had something wrong with it.

Warren Stockton told me that, when as a boy, he would ride through the hills about Granite Station would see several Coyotes. He has not observed but two Coyotes, in the Granite Station area,

(Coyotes)

California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 September 1963

2329

Within the last Twelve Years.

Condor

I stopped and visited with Mr. and Mrs. Carl West. They had seen no Condor of late.

reCondor

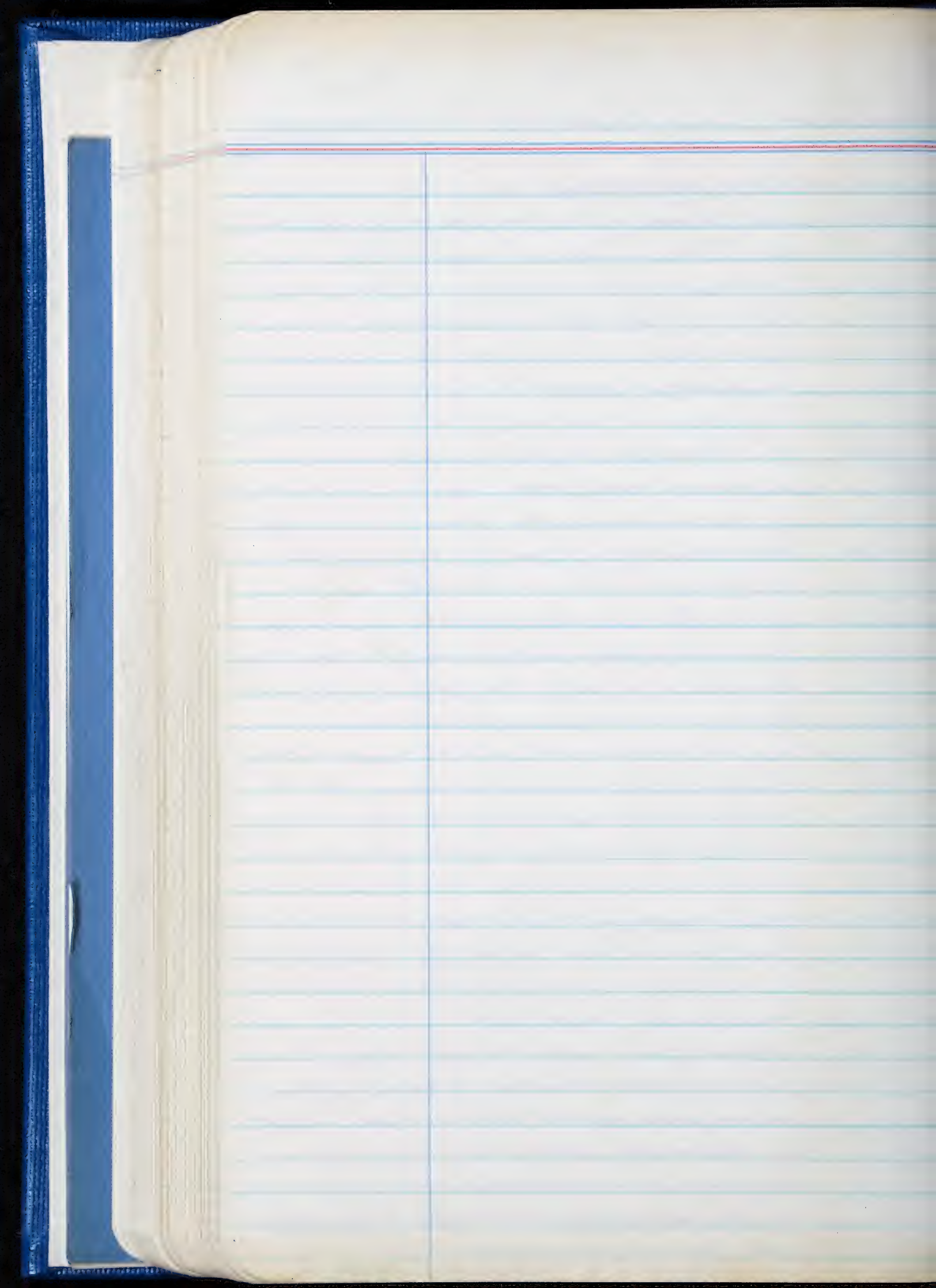
At the headquarters offices of Kern County Land Company, in Bakersfield, I was shown into the Office of Herb Free who is in charge of San Emigdio Ranch operations. I presented my letter of recommendation to him. After some discussion Mr. Free finally asked me, "Just what are Condors?" In the end Mr. Free seemed most interested and referred me to the Ranch Manager Mr. Justinian Cairne. who would be available by phone at 6:30 p.m. Tonight. I duly called Mr. Cairne at 6:30 ~~AM~~ and after notifying ^{me} of the importance of staying on roads and closing ~~gates~~ ^{gates} when traveling over San Emigdio lands he told me to call his Ranch foreman Mr. Walter Slaytor and make plans where I could meet Mr. Slaytor and pick up a key to the gate locks on the San Emigdio Ranch. This I immediately did and before being told where Mr. Slaytor would leave the key so that I could pick it up tomorrow afternoon, was again prevailed upon by Mr. Slaytor to stay on the roads and keep all gates locked. This is entered as evidence against irresponsible people getting on the San Emigdio Ranch. Condors enjoy a maximum amount of protection under these circumstances.

here

15 + 011

Condor

Referring back to my visit with the Stocktons today, Mrs. Frances Stockton told me that as a young girl, living seven miles west of Porterville, Tulare County, California in 1904 or 1905 while attending school they used to watch great numbers of Buzzards and some Condor passing out to the west to feed on the tremendous supply of dead fish that were left stranded when the Tulare Lake dried up for the first time.



Eben McMillan

19 September 1963

I camped last night in open lands to the east of Edison, Kern County, California. Towards morning rain commenced falling and continued unabated up to 7:00 A.M. when I packed up and left for Cholame, there being no further chance to observe Condor today nor to get onto the wet roads of the San Emigdio Ranch.



Eben McMillan

21 September 1963

I left home at ~~2~~ 2:30 A.M. The sky was clear, it was warm and mild. Even before daybreak I saw several automobiles on 99 highway south of Bakersfield that were loaded with red coated and capped persons whom I felt were heading for the mountain areas to the east of highway 99 where the late deer hunting season opened this morning. I arrived in Fillmore, in Ventura County, at daybreak and motored up the Sespe Corridor arriving at Cow Springs prior to sunrise. One Chevrolet pickup truck and one, old, Chevrolet touring car were parked ~~in~~ in the swale that forms the basin where the side-road going to Bucksnot Camp of Mr. Harter. The occupants of these vehicles had already departed northward along the roadway that continues on past Mr. Harter's Bucksnot Camp and out to a dead-end in a flat at the edge of the Wildlife Sanctuary, and on the divide between the Sespe and the Agua Blanca water drainages. A brisk northeast wind commenced blowing across the chaparral as soon as the sun came up.

The hunters, when leaving their vehicles, passed around the locked gate on the hill one hundred feet up the Bucksnot road.

At 7:45 A.M., while standing on the knoll that stands to the right of the Bucksnot road and is about one hundred yards north of the swale where the hunters vehicles, and my pickup, were parked, I heard six shots fired in slow succession out towards the north. I could make no sighting of hunters in the area from where the shots came from. It sounded as though these shots were coming from close to, or just beyond the limits of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

shooting

California Condor Eden McMillan

21 September 1963

I drove to the Oil well site that is at the roadside one-half mile south of Buckshot Camp and remained there until 1:00 P.M. without seeing an individual nor hearing any shooting. No Condor, nor other large birds, were observed in the area. Three deer, none of which were legal to shoot, fed for some time about two hundred ^{yards} south of where I sat in the pickup. Several cattle passed near me during the morning. They were going to water at cow springs.

Three horses were in a small inclosure at the Buckshot Camp.

It was still warm, clear, and windy when I left the Oil well site heading down the roadway towards Fillmore. Before leaving this site I picked up nine empty cartridges that were scattered about the Oil well site and belonged to a large caliber pistol.

Proceeding down corridor I saw no sign of humans until passing Maple Creek about one mile, I met three young fellows in a rather dilapidated looking vehicle who said they were hunting deer. I inquired of them as to where one might hunt in the area without running afoul of the law. They seemed to know the area well, and told me one could hunt anyplace as far up as Dough Flat. From there one had to hike to the edge of the Bird Refuge to the north to hunt. They ^{said} ~~said~~ one could hunt this side of Dough Flat until Monday night September 23, 1963.

I asked the three lads, all of whom were probably under 18 years of age, about the Bird Refuge. "What birds," I asked, were they holding the refuge for? They ^{told} ~~told~~ me, "It was to save them Condor". "Condor!" I exclaimed, "What sort of birds are those." Great big

Sespe Corridor

P-332

California Condor Eben McMillan 21 September 1963
black birds", they answered. "Did you ever see those Condor
here and how many are there supposed to be here? To this
inquiry they said the Condor were supposed to be rare and
that they had seen them before in the Dough Flat area as
well as over the Piu Lake. The boys said they were from
Fillmore, but did not think they knew Jack Gains. They professed
an interest to get on ^{hunting} ~~hunting~~ thus terminating our meeting.

I came to a U.S. Government Chevrolet pickup that was
parked at the roadside near where signs of a tractor and
machinery having gone down a steep decline into the
bottom of a canyon below the road. A letter in the
seat of the pickup was addressed to Jack Parkinson. I
followed the trail that had been bulldozed down into the canyon
bottom from the road, for about one hundred yards, where I
could hear sounds of activity and see dust far below. After
waiting to see if anyone should come up out of the deep
canyon and not finding this to be true, I drove on in
to Fillmore, meeting a car on the way, that seemed in
a great hurry and showed no heed of my desire to stop and
talk. This culminated my observations in the Sespe Corridor
up to 1:45 PM.

California Condor Eben Mcmillan 23 September 1963

A visit was paid to the Dead pit of Newhall Land and Farming Company Feed Lot at ~~San~~ Castaic Junction at 11:40 a.m. after I had stopped at Bruce Strathorn hunting preserve in the Simi Valley earlier without contacting Mr. Strathorn. The day was warm and calm and clear. No New bodies had been added to the ^{dead} pit since I had visited the spot one week before. Not one large bird was in sight, nor came into sight during the thirty minutes spent here. Nor were there signs of large birds having been here since the recent rain that had dampened things up considerably, probably on ~~September 23, 1963~~ 19 September 1963

From Castaic to Arvin in the San Joaquin Valley by 2:00 P.M. without sighting a large bird of any species. I drove up Sheep Trail Grade East of Arvin and watched for one hour without seeing any large birds. At 3:30 P.M. I visited Jack ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen}, who was trimming horses feet at ~~the~~ his camp one mile ~~west~~ east of Arvin. He informed me he had seen a Condor over White Wolf Corrals on August 31, 1963 and another Condor circling over the Tejon Corrals north of the Sheep Trail Road ~~on~~ on September 5 - 1963. Jack ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen} gave me the name of a mister George (Gib) McKinsey, another Tejon Ranch buckaroo, and who lives at the Old Tejon Ranch Headquarters and who is supposed to have seen 32 Condor at one time last year in the Tejon Ranch Old Headquarters area. Another buckaroo who was with Jack ~~Jensen~~ ^{Jentzen}, and whose name I failed to get, said he was with Gib McKinsey when they saw the

Food

Condor

Two records cancelled out by information on page 358 - Condor

Condor? }
Not Used



california condor Eben Mcmillan 23 September 1963

32 Condor last year. I will look this Gib McKensey up at the next opportunity.

Jack ^{Jantzen} ~~Jensen~~ informed me that the heifers he is responsible for and which are now all in the White Wolf, Alvin part of the Tejon Ranch property, are commencing to abort premature calves. He has ^{seen} ~~seen~~ several in the last few days that lost their calves.

The Rain of last week that drove me home from the Edison area has sprouted grass in the higher foothills, especially in the White Wolf area where some germination of grass seeds had probably been triggered from the cloud-burst that hit this and the Tehachapi area in August 8th period. The field of Barley that was harvested by Boy Williams, in White Wolf Pass, and was eaten to the ground, after harvest, by the Tejon Ranch heifers, is now, grass green, and covered with volunteer ~~barley~~ barley that is more than three inches high.

No ~~large~~ large birds observed in White Wolf, Bakersfield - Wasco, Lost Hills, or Bitterwater Valley. One Golden Eagle was noted hunting east of the Adam Grant home in Choice Valley, inside San Luis Obispo County.

Today I cut from The Newspapers The Fresno Bee, of Sunday, 22 September 1963, an article headed, 'Tipton Rancher is cleared of cattle neglect, in which a Tipton, Tulare County, Rancher had been taken to court by the Tulare County Humane Society for willfully starving cattle on overgrazed land. This item is entered as specimen No. 10 - Eben Mcmillan.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

25 September 1963

Condor ✓
Gene Rambo, who ^{Lives} ~~Lives~~ 8 miles North West of Cholame, S.L.O. Co. Calif. told me of seeing one condor, 20 August 1963, flying with a flock of buzzards over the Cholame flats.

Food ✓
Mr. Rambo also told me that several of his cows and heifers had slunk, or given premature birth to calves this fall season. He said that none had aborted the last few days.



california condor

Eben McMillan

26 September 1963

It was hot - ~~clear~~^{calm}, and clear as I arrived in Ducor, Tulare county California. A rancher from the Springville area, who was getting gas at a station, told me he had lived in the Springville area for 20 years and had never seen a condor. He said he would like to see one of these birds.

The man who runs a blacksmith shop in Ducor said he saw a condor that was sick in the Granite Station area about 1960. This condor was near where he was working and that after it stayed around for a day or so, Mona Calver came down and doctored the condor. This blacksmith did not know what finally happened to this condor. Although he has been around the Ducor-Glenville area for many years this was the only condor he had ever seen.

I stopped in Porterville to talk with Ross Welch, a former warden of Fish and Game, who retired several years ago, and who was the man who had notified the press, and I think University of California M.V.2. of the condor nest that was found in the Redwood tree on Tule Indian reservation in the mid-1940's. Mr. Welch, I found out, had moved from the Porterville area and now lives in the Salinas area of Monterey County, California.

Joe, a welder in a machine shop in Strathmore, who knows and spends considerable time in the mountains east of Strathmore, told me of never seeing condor in that area. He said that on a trip to Los Angeles several years ago he saw condor in the area near Lebec on the Ridge Route.

In Exeter, when getting gasoline, the station attendant discussed the matter of the case that had been recently processed through the Exeter Justice Court where a rancher who operates east of Exeter had been held to answer for cruelty to his livestock by overgrazing his range to the point of starving the cattle.

see condor

the condor
is used

condor history

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 September 1963

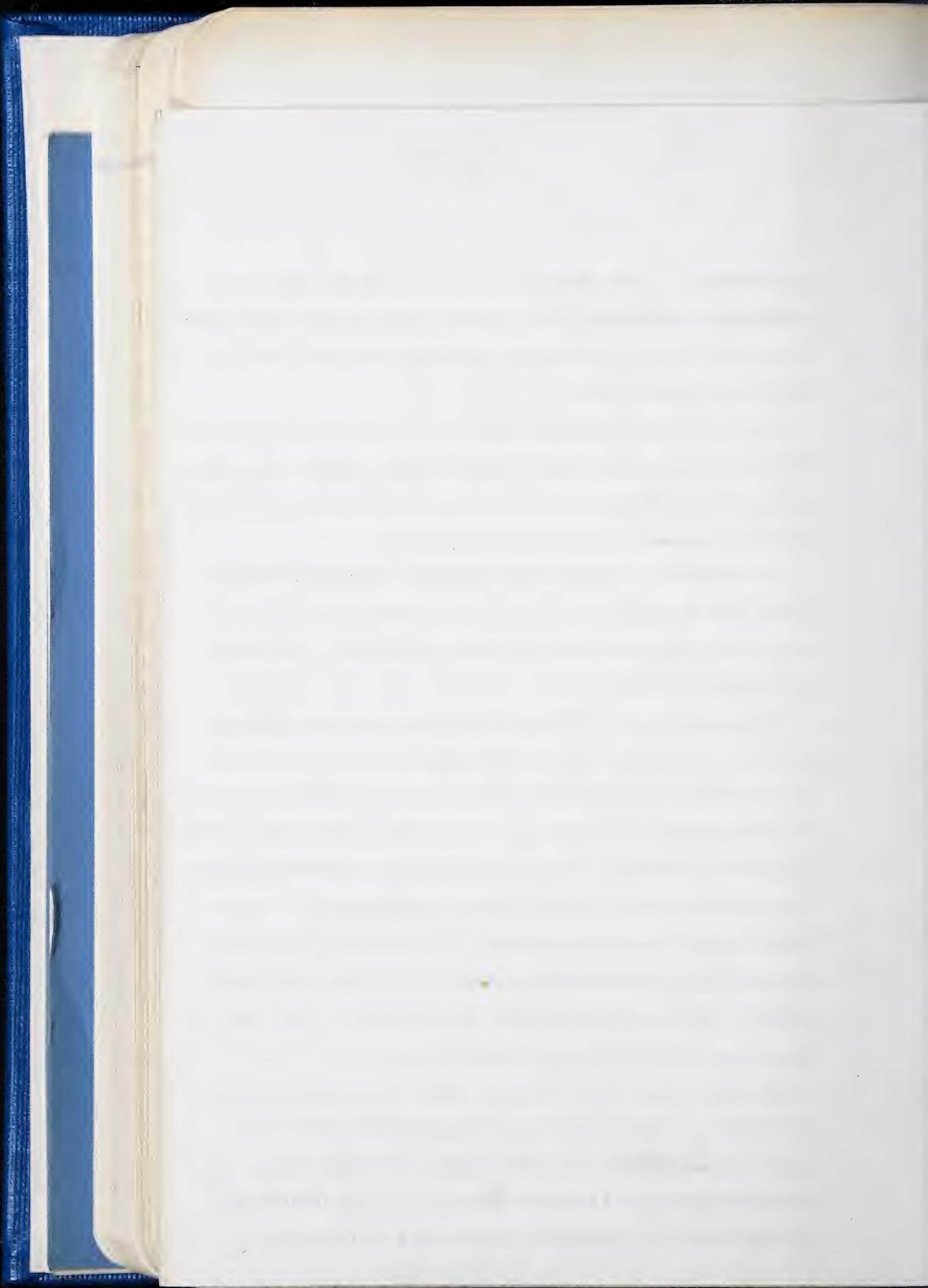
This station attendant thought drastic measures should have been instituted against this rancher to make sure such inhuman activities would be discouraged in the future.

A salesman at the Ford Motor Agency in Exeter discussed this same trial with me and declared that he could not have served on the jury for he was definitely opinionated against the defendant for having abused his animals and over-grazed his range.

At 12:30 P.m. while having my lunch, in the Exeter city park, Ten Turkey Buzzards sailed over heading southward. I also saw several buzzards circling above the highway as I drove from Exeter to Visalia about 1:30 p.m.

I stopped at the Tulare County Humane Society station west of Visalia on highway 99. Mrs. ANN Gift Dula, who seems to be the moving force behind the Humane movement in Tulare County, and who promoted the overgrazing and cruelty to animal case referred to formally, discussed matters of this trial, and matters leading up to its culmination, freely with me. It seems that bringing cases into court to prove cruelty to animals on rangelands is nothing new in Tulare County. Mrs. Dula thought of at least six such cases that have been brought to trial by Tulare County Humane Society within the last eight years. This last case is the only one they have lost.

This most recent case of animal cruelty by the rancher was the culmination of more than a year of investigation in which it was found the ~~defendant~~ ^{defendant}, the son of a wealthy Portuguese farmer in the Exeter area, had rented a 500 acre range to the east of Exeter and on this property had pastured an average of —



Tuesday

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 September 1963

✓ 200 cattle, ⁸⁵ of which had died, from what veterinarians said, was malnutrition and lack of water. The defendant hired an able lawyer, who, against the feeble effort of the lawyer for the ~~plaintiff~~ plaintiffs, was the difference in the outcome of the trial, Mrs. Dula said.

The degree of public sentiment one can establish against persons who ^{willfully} ~~commit~~ commit acts of cruelty against livestock on ranges, is in direct relation to who the defendant is; what his economic associations are; who he plays golf with, and what historical background he has. Had not the last plaintiff been a young, ignorant, Portuguese fellow who had little social prestige in the community, Mrs. Dula thought they could never have even gotten him into court. As it was, his father's money made it possible for him to defend himself successfully.

Mrs. Dula said the cattlemen of the area were strong in their condemnation of the above ~~mentioned~~ mentioned overstocking practice and acted as prosecution witnesses, as did the farm advisor and banker. In fact the local stockmen came to her in the beginning to get her to act in defence of the starving livestock.

I have noted the above case in that this change in thinking regarding cattle treatment on rangeland is something quite new and should effect condors considerably. In the past cattle have starved on ranges and probably still do, but cases such as this will effect ranchers thinking about this matter. Undoubtedly food shortages and malnutrition had caused many livestock deaths in the past that resulted in food for condor. Public sentiment against such range practices will undoubtedly effect this supply of food for condor.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 September 1963

However, within its present range, the food supply being so varied and plentiful, it is doubtful that Condor welfare will be adversely effected by this change in their food supply. Perhaps when cattle are dying regularly in an area used by Condor as a feeding ground and this food supply is abruptly terminated, there could be some effort on the part of Condor that were using such an area, to find out that this supply was no more available and a new source established. Probably an optimum situation for Condor as to feeding conditions would come from continued, varied, and well scattered food items that would not support Condor in any one area for any length of time. This would prevent Condor from becoming stabilized in one area for sufficient time, whereby, persons who might harm them would find out their whereabouts, or even persons meaning no harm to them might come to see, or photograph, and thereby create a situation not in the best interests of Condor welfare. For Condor to become too trusting of humans would not be in the best interests of Condor preservation. A stable supply of food, in one given area, ~~for~~ lasting more than a week or two, could work against Condor.

Excepting deer hunting season, there is probably no time during the year when wild animals supply a concentrated supply of food for Condor. Domestic livestock are subject to seasonal die-offs. Calving season - ~~the~~ diseases, and poison vegetation create periods of plentiful food for Condor on livestock ranges. Most stockmen become concerned when their livestock suffer heavy loss and are prone to jump at conclusions as to what causes the deaths. During the calving season many ranchers suspect predation, where more likely deaths among their calves is due to other causes.

feeding
feeding
condor
food



California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

26 September 1963

probably when, within the range of condor, their food supply is somewhat limited, and scattered over a wide area of this range, condor maintain a more healthful situation as well as being safeguarded somewhat against enemy attack. When condor feed in a group it seems that the group decides to leave before some of the condor have completely satisfied their appetite. In these group gatherings the strong and competitive birds feed first then leave the area. The other less fortunate condor seem anxious to remain with the flock and due to this will, at times, lead to condor leaving a carcass to join the flock before they satisfy their hunger. When food is scattered well over the condor range birds do not flock so much. Another item in favor of condor scattering out to feed is their maintenance of a thorough knowledge of their range. Should a situation arise, at any time, where food for condor could become scarce, the fact that condor had intimate knowledge of their total range could be very much in their favor.

One more factor that might be important in the welfare of condor, in relation to their food, would be that should numbers of condor gather near condor nesting areas to feed, while parent condor are feeding young, it could work a hardship on those parent condor in the event most, or all, of the available food is used by non-nesting condor.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

I camped last night one mile west of the U.S. Forest Service San Joaquin Experimental Range headquarters. Many horned owls called in the distance as well as several screech owls. The day broke hot - calm and clear. Don Duncan resident Biologist at this Range Station, although professing an interest in large birds, had seen no condor and only the odd Golden Eagle now and then. He does not think condor have been over the range here at ^{at} Oheils for ~~at~~ least three years.

I stopped at the Fire Suppression Camp of the California State Forestry, four miles west of Coarsegold, but no one there even knew what a condor was.

At the State of California Division of Forestry Station at Raymond, Madera County, California, a Mr. Russell McNUTT, one of the fireman stationed there, told me of hearing that a Mr. Wright, who is relief fire lookout man for Madera County had seen a condor circling with a flock of buzzards over the lookout tower on Red Top Mountain that is located about two miles west of where the ^{U.C.} Experimental Range road turns off highway 41. Russell McNUTT called another lookout tower that is located to the northwest of Raymond about five miles. The man at this lookout didn't know what a condor was and after being told said he had only seen buzzards.

Joe Cecil who lives east of Raymond four miles and who is well versed in outdoor lore, having been a professional packer in Sequoia National Park for many years, during the summer, -



California Condor

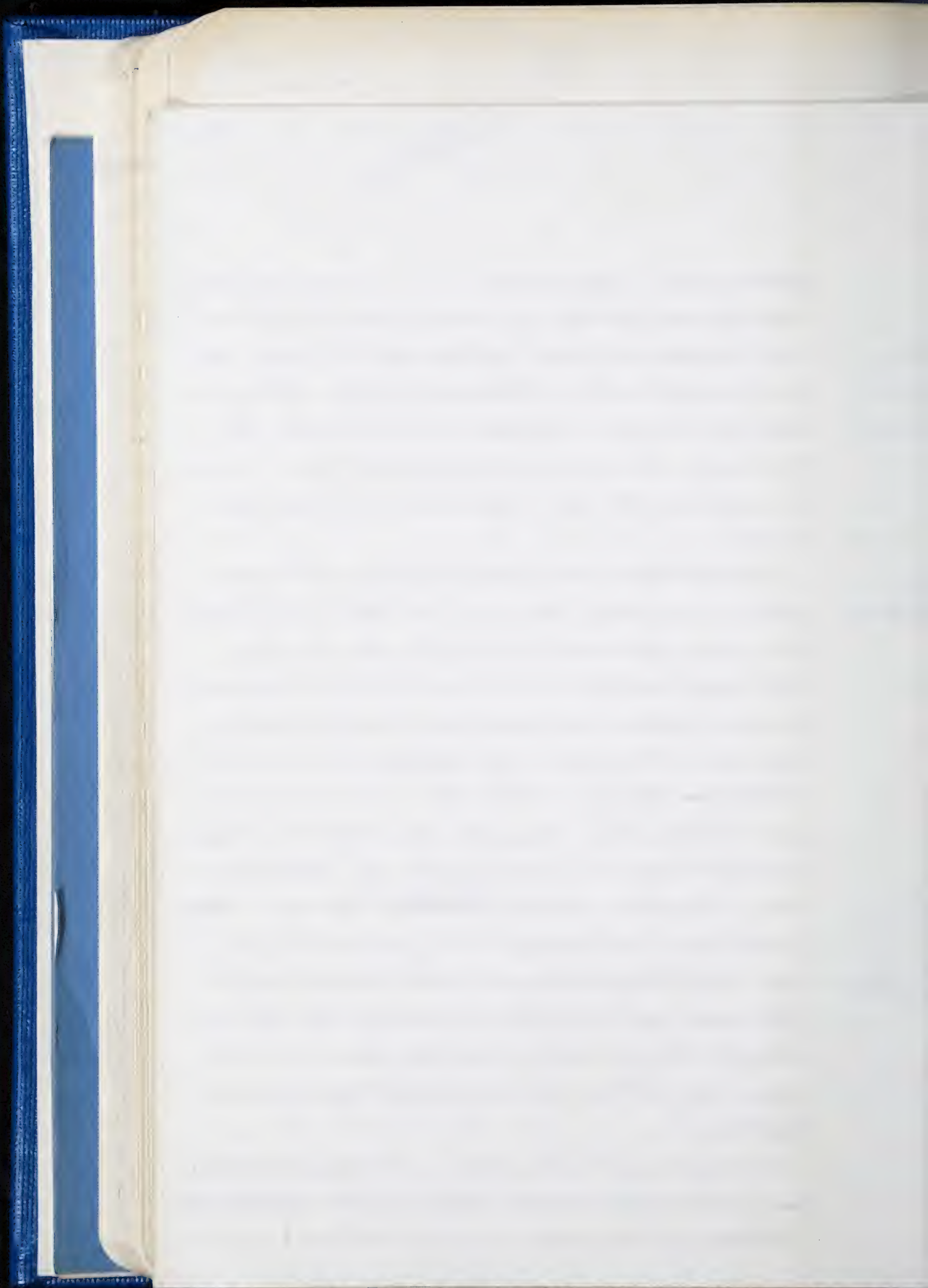
Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

months, as well as working on ranches about the Raymond area, told ~~me~~ me that the only time he ever heard of Condors was when reading an article in ~~the~~ some publication stating that Condor had been seen in the ~~area~~ Greenhorn District of Kern County. He thought he read this article about two, or three, years ago. Mr. Cecil is quite sure he has never seen a Condor.

Clifford Calhoun who ranches to the East of Raymond, whom I met, with his son, at the Post Office in Raymond, and whose aged mother was also at this location, said he never saw, nor heard of anyone else in the Raymond area, who had ever seen Condor. Mr. Calhoun said he has been in the Raymond area for over fifty years and his mother came there as a young girl. Although she said that the country people always discuss unusual sightings of any wildlife, she had never heard of Condor being seen in that area. Clifford ^{Calhoun} ~~Raymond~~ professed to ~~being~~ having done much hunting as a young man in the hills around Raymond but had never observed any bird he thought would answer the description of a Condor. Clifford Calhoun's son is a man of about 21 or 22 years old. He ^{has} never heard of Condor. The name was new to him.

Guy Spinks and his wife stopped at the Raymond store. They were just returning from gathering cattle in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The Spinks are young people who live in Madera, but have -



California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

27 September 1963

been about the Raymond area a good deal, Mrs. Spinks having been born and raised there. They thought Condor were only in South America. They never heard of Condor in California.

It being noon ^{when} ~~when~~ I passed the elementary school, that is located about one-quarter mile south of Raymond, I went in and talked with the teachers and students who were having their lunch outdoors; it being very warm today. None of the teachers, nor children, had heard of Condor. I had to produce photographs to acquaint ~~acquaint~~ them with the fact that such a bird exists. After being told of its size one lady teacher expressed concern, that, were it about, there would be fear that it would carry off children. One of the students, a lad about twelve years old, said his father is a trapper for the State and Government, but that he had never mentioned Condor to the lad. Another lady teacher wondered where information could be obtained that could be used to instruct young students in a general knowledge of wildlife and a responsible attitude towards them. I gave her the address of Audubon Society.

The Principal of the Raymond elementary school, Mr. Clifford Rutheford, promised to send me any information he might hear of that would be relative to Condor in the Raymond area.

An adult Golden Eagle was observed, briefly, circling over the foothill country at the lower edge of the Oak belt about ten miles southeast of Raymond. The range country along the foothills from Raymond to highway 41 has a tremendous cover of dried grasses just now. Very few cattle, and no sheep, were observed in these fields. The livestock still being held on the mountain ranges I suppose.



Raymond

California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

Stopping at a very large Turkey Ranch that is located at the edge of the lower Oak-belt, in the foothills, between Raymond and Highway 41, and inquiring as to ~~animals~~^{animals}, and birds, that prey on the population of seventy five thousand turkeys, of all sizes and ages, that are penned up in enclosures of about two acres each and circled with a chicken-wire fence that averages about five feet high, I learned that large birds give no trouble, but that wildcats, coons, coyotes and domestic dogs do become problems at times. This Ranch has been in the turkey growing business for thirty years. I was told that many buzzards come in the summer season, to feed on carcasses of turkeys that die from one cause or another. But no one here knew of condor, or had ever seen an eagle. I had just seen an eagle about one mile west of this ranch.

What was formally a large sheep operation and operated in the past by a Mr. Wagner, and is now ~~raising~~^{producing} cattle and being operated by the son of the Mr. Wagner, who ran sheep; is situated in the foothills ~~where~~^{where} the east boundary of this property, running along highway 41, on its northwest side, for some distance, ~~is~~ is the ranch property on which John Tuft, Gregory McMillan and I saw nineteen condor that had fed on a calf carcass on 24 May 1959 at about 8:30 A.M. The young wife of the present Mr. Wagner ~~knew~~^{knew} nothing of birds, or mammals, and admitted that her husband knew less. "We don't have time to be looking at birds or wild animals," she remarked. While she stood in the ~~door~~ doorway of the barn-like structure in which -

Condor range

food

Condor range



California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

They were residing. Two of the small kittens that swarmed about Mrs. Wagner's feet were stepped on by her in trying to evade them. ~~these kittens~~. The ones that were stepped on cried unmercifully, but drew no comment, nor interest, from Mrs. Wagner. She said her husband liked to hunt, and fish, but that he didn't care about birds.

D. N. McDougald, who operates a farm, and raises some cattle also, was just leaving his ranch buildings as I entered his yard. He professed a keen interest in nature and ~~was~~ was apologetic that he had never seen Condor. He knows of the nest of a Golden Eagle in a pine tree not too many miles distant from his home, that, he claims, has been in this same tree for thirty years. Mr. McDougald's home is located just west of highway 41 and about one mile north of the 41 highway and Madera to Fresno road No. 145 crossroads. D. N. McDougald said that Raven had just come into his country in the last few years. He said that up to three Raven come and follow him about the fields when he plows with the tractor. He had heard of Starlings, but had not seen these birds in his area. He had ~~read~~ ^{read} of Condor, but felt sure he had never seen them. McDougald was born in this area and comes from pioneer stock who came ~~here~~ ^{here} in the early days.

At the ^{ranch} home of Mr. F. M. Shaubach, that is located about one-quarter mile west of highway 41 and about one mile southwest of the entrance to the San Joaquin Experimental Range, I found —



California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

both Mr. and Mrs. Shaubach to be very interested in wildlife as well as being good observers. They are both people probably in their sixties, and have ^{lived} ~~lived~~ on their ranch here for about twenty years. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Shaubach knew of Condor ever having been in their country and were quite sure they had never observed birds in their area that would be as large as Condor.

Mrs. Jameson answered my questions as did all other residents of this area, in a negative manner. That is, they were not aware of Condor. Mrs. Jameson, who lives in her nice Ranch home that is located on the east side of 41 highway and about one-quarter mile south of the 41 Highway-Madera to Friant Road 110-145, Crossroads, is the daughter of the late Mr. O'Neil, founder of the town of O'Neils, and one of the early settlers and large landowners of this area. ^{she} had never heard her parents speak of Condor, nor had she ever talked to anyone in the area who had seen Condor.

At a roadside tavern, on the north side of Friant Dam, I met a Mr. McDougald, who is the father of D.N. McDougald, to whom I had talked to earlier in the day. The elder McDougald, although being a sizable stockman and owner of good acreage in the area to the north of the Friant Dam impoundment, thought it unlikely that Condor ever frequented his range much in later years, for he professed to be quite observing and had never seen large birds that would answer the description of a Condor.

At the Indian mission, on the Table Mountain Indian Reservation, that is about five miles east of Friant, on the Auberry Road, I talked with John Grigsby who was born and raised on the reservation and has spent a good part of his 60 plus years hunting and prowling —



Freeland

California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

about the mountains of this reservation. After seeing the pictures of condor, I have, ^{he} felt sure he had never seen a Condor in that area. He did think he had seen Condor on the Coast. When asked what part of the Coast he replied, "West of Coalinga!"

William Walker who also lives here at the Indian Mission, and who I was directed to contact when I arrived on the mission, was not at home, although his three children were. His young son of about twelve years old, took a postcard that I self-addressed and promised that he would mail this card to me with what information his father had about Condor being in or over the Table Mountain Reservation, or any other place that these birds may have been seen in the general area.

arriving home at 8:30 p.m. I found the following information in my mail from Evelyn Farnsworth of Porterville.

9/23/63: 12:55 A.M. One ~~condor~~ (Condor) appeared over our house flying straight east. Beyond barn joined a long string of buzzards flying high, and level, due south. Disappeared in same direction.

9/24/63 - 10:20 A.M. Two adults (Condor) circling with about 50 buzzards about 1 mile above Woody on the Woody - Glenville road and off to the right, east, up a gulch - two or three hundred yards.

Dear Mr. McMillan:

Freeland and I had to go to Fresno this morning, so I brought this sheet along with the idea of sending it to you and telling you that apparently our Condor season was over. However, on the way down we saw these two birds. I don't think there are any cattle in that field so the attraction was —

Condor

California Condor

Eben McMillan

27 September 1963

probably where someone had cleaned a deer.

Two large groups of buzzards have gone south since you were over here last. One on the 21st, and another yesterday morning (25 Sept).

Sincerely

—
 Evalyn Farnsworth —
 —

Seeing
 Condor

Throughout the range of Condor, when people are aware of Condor, they see them. My coverage of the northernmost range of Condor, on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, today, would tend to show that Condor very seldom get north of Friant Dam. However, it will be interesting to visit this area again at the close of this study to see if the people with whom I have talked today, might look for Condor in the future, and, in so doing, develop evidence that Condor do frequent the area from Friant Dam to Raymond more than had been formally suspected. How^{the} nineteen Condor that Taft, Gregory McMillan and I saw on May 24, 1959 could range the above area without being noticed by someone seems strange. On the other hand, Mrs. Farnsworth sees Condor more than all the other residents of the, Potterville to Glenville area, see together. She looks for Condor and knows them.

Chuchupate

California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 October 1963

I left for Frazier Mountain and Tejon Ranch at 7:00 A.M.

It was cool in the bitterwater valley, but as soon as I reached Blackwells corner it warmed up, and continued so, until I climbed out of the San Joaquin valley in the Lebec area,

As I drove south of Bakersfield ~~on~~ on the new 99 freeway, in the area west of Greenfield, great numbers of turkey buzzards were coming up out of the cottonwood trees that grow along where the old Panama slough used to run. These buzzards were gathering in flocks of from 25 to 250 birds. These flocks would circle in tall columns, then gather into lines and sail southward for one-half mile, or more, when they would gather together again and circle for ~~ten~~ ten minutes or so after which they would move on south again. Some of the ^{smaller} ~~smaller~~ flocks ^{would} ~~would~~, at times, emerge with larger flocks, and some of the larger flocks ~~would~~ would divide into smaller groups at times. Stopping on the freeway to photograph one of these flocks of buzzards, I could look east and see ~~these~~ flocks circling. The same was the case each direction I would see. A rough estimate at this time placed the number of buzzards within my sight at a minimum of one thousand.

I stopped at Chuchupate Ranger Station in valley between Mount Pinos and Frazier Mountain. Gary Plisco, the district Ranger in charge there, gave me three sheets of paper on which were condor sightings by himself - Frank A. Thorpe and a Mr. Bruce Lambertson of Van Nuys, Calif. who had spent two weekends on Frazier Mountain with Scout Troop 190 also of Van Nuys. The following

Buzzard Migration

Condors?



Frazier

P. 350

California Condor Eben McMillan

1 October 1963

are the records of condor sightings they turned in and were made available to me.

9/18/63 = 3 Condor on East Frazier Mountain. By Frank A. Thorpe

9/15/63 = 5 Condor on Mt. Pinos from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Bruce Lambertson

9/22/63 = 3:00 P.M. 2 Condor going north between Mt. Pinos and Saw Mill Mountain

9/22/63 = 4:00 P.M. 2 Condor close on top of Mt. Pinos - S.W. side; Lambertson

9/25/63 = 12:30 P.M. 3 Condor in Cuddy Valley - G. Plisco -

It is worthy of note that the two Condor seen by Mr. Bruce Lambertson on 9/22/63 on the S.W. side of Mt. Pinos at about 3:00 P.M. were down low enough that Mr. Lambertson could see good detail of birds, red head, beak, etc. as they flew directly over his head.

Gary Plisco noted that of the three Condor he saw in Cuddy Valley on 9/25/63 at 12:30 P.M. one was small, two were large. I have found it difficult to distinguish between the size of Condor when flying even though immature were with adults in flight.

The following are observations of Mr. Calhoun, the fire lookout in tower on top of Frazier Mountain

9/20/63 = 10:20 A.M. 2 Condor towards Lockwood Valley

9/23/63 = 1:35 P.M. 1 " over Frazier Mountain Lookout -

9/26/63 = 11:00 A.M. 3 " towards Alamo Mountain

9/20/63 = ~~4:00~~ 2:05 P.M. 3 Condor over East Frazier

10/1/63 11:50 A.M. 1 Condor west of Frazier Mt. Lookout 1/2 mile - I was at the tower when this Condor flew in from Pinos area. The

following is an account of this observation.

Condor

vulnerable
shooting
range

Condor



Frazier

P.351

california condor

Eben McMillan

1 October 1963

As I talked with Mr. Calhoun in the lookout tower atop Frazier Mountain at 11:50 A.M. an adult condor came in from high, in general direction of Mt. Pinos area, with wings pulled in and set for braking (see diagram) glide. ⁹⁺ It circled 4 or 5 times lowering as it did so and then dropped from sight behind pines on point that is directly west, about 1/2 mile, of lookout tower. This condor gave every indication of a bird dropping in to feed and Mr. Calhoun stating that Mr. Gray, the man who tends for cattle that graze in this area, had told him of seeing a dead doe deer in that general area. I drove the pickup to water trough at roadside going down the mountain towards upper overflow camp and leaving the pickup there searched the area where we last saw this condor disappear but saw nothing of the condor. Not any cañon on which this bird might drop and feed. I gave up the hunt at 1:40 P.M. and left Frazier Mountain.

At Headquarters Office of Tejon Ranch Company I found much interest in condor and talked to three of the personnel who had seen condor during the last weekend. Mr. Thurber, the livestock manager, told me of seeing five condor in canyon southeast of the Office headquarters about two miles. Mr. Guigsby, resident engineer for Tejon, had seen four condor on mountain side about 2 miles northeast of the headquarters Office at Lebec and another man whose name I failed to get had seen three condor in the area southeast of the Lebec Office.

There seems to be keen interest in the condor among

condor

ing glide

Food

condor?

interest →



Tijon

California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 October 1963

personnel at the Lebec headquarters of Tijon Ranch Company and I feel much can be done to increase this interest to the point of being very beneficial to condor welfare.

Marjory Beckett, who is secretary to Mr. Thorber, was most happy that condor had been sighted in the Lebec area and expressed a hope she gets to see one soon.

John Grigsby introduced me to the lady who acts as secretary to the Tijon Ranch Company and whose name I failed to get out will leave a blank space here \Rightarrow and enter her name when

I get it the next time I pass that way. This lady tends a hummingbird feeder that hangs outside the large ~~board~~ room where the board of directors of The Tijon Ranch Company meet and this feeder is at the end of a large window facing off this room towards the west. She is very interested in the hummingbirds and has watched them nesting and bringing up their young in a shrub nearby. One member of the board, at meetings, would joke with her about the birds as though she was displaying protective feminine behaviour in caring for these hummingbirds, but on a day when two fighting male hummers hit the big window and fell to the ground, as a board meeting was in session, this man was the first to dash out and pick up the ~~two~~ one bird that did not rise from the ground. This is entered as evidence that most people can develop a benevolent attitude



California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 October 1962

toward wildlife if associations or contacts bring them into acquaintanceship with this type of thinking.

I drove to old headquarters of Tejon Ranch and talked with Mr. B. M. Pingree who operates a check station for all hunters that go into, or come from, the Tejon Mountain area in quest of deer. Mr. Pingree stated that 37 deer had been checked out since the season commenced, ~~in~~ ^{through} his station. He had heard of no one seeing Condor.

I drove to the home of Gib McKensie at the old Tejon headquarters but he was not in.

Cooked my supper near reservoir about two miles west of Tejon Ranch old headquarters, then drove on to Arvin and up Comanche, or Sheep Trail, grade where I camped for the night about one thousand feet above the level of the valley floor.

Tejon Ranch

P-354

California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 October 1963

The day broke warm, clear and calm. I entered Tejon property at Comanche Creek Corral and drove up Comanche Creek several miles. The cattle that were ranging in this creek were old cows that were in poor condition. The range in this creek drainage showed signs of abuse from overgrazing. In the upper portion of this creek a cross fence separates this range, the upper portion of which is covered with green Russian Thistle plants (*Salsola kali* var. *tenuifolia*) that show results of overgrazing for several seasons. No cattle were in this field.

Among the cottonwoods that line the bottom of the streambed of Comanche Creek I found the carcasses of two barn owls and one horned owl lying close together and nearby where a campfire had been kindled. Nearby ~~in~~ an empty shell box that had contained long rifle 22 caliber cartridges was found. I photographed this situation both in color ~~in~~ and in black and white, as well as 16 mm motion picture comm. Kodachrome.

Inside the Tejon Ranch range fence, traveling south, I saw a pair of adult Golden Eagle hunting along the edge of the farming fields that crowd the foothills here. These birds circled back towards the hills, eastward as I watched them. Arriving at the valley in which the Old Tejon headquarters is located a turkey buzzard flew up from the roadway ~~at~~ where it was feeding on the carcass of a cottontail rabbit that had been flattened by automobile wheels.

owl's shot

found
not used

California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 October 1963

I drove to the hunter check station where Mr. Pingree and W.E. Nichols, a patrolman for Tejon Ranch, were. Mr. Nichols said he saw a Condor in Pastoria Canyon on September 21, 1963.

I drove to the Cattle Corral's that are about one mile west of the old headquarters, where cowboys were working cattle. Ray Like, Cowboy foreman, said the Condors don't show up in the Tejon Valley much until about mid-October. He thought they stay most of the year in the refuge in the Ventura area. Mr. Like told me that the Yearling cattle on Tejon were troubled just now with pinkeye, and screw worms, and earlier this fall season these same Yearlings, or weiners, had been troubled with pneumonia. He also said it was the worst season ~~with~~ for flies he has experienced. I could see how this could be for flies swarmed everywhere. Many more flies than I have observed in any area before. Mr. Like introduced me to Gib ^{McKenzie} ~~McKenzie~~, a tall, slim, cowboy of about 40 years old who was born in Tejon Canyon on the property of his parents, who came to this area many years ago. Gib McKenzie's father now lives in Bakersfield, having moved there in recent years, after living nearly all of his 86 years on the property in Tejon Canyon, about two miles above Tejon Ranch old headquarters.

Gib McKenzie told me of seeing 31 or 32 Condor about -

California condor

Eben McMillan

2 October 1963

the month of November in 1962. He thinks Condor come to Tejon basin to feed when the cows commence calving in mid-October. He usually sees them coming from the head of Tejon Canyon flying out west-by-southwest over the eucalyptus grove southwest of old headquarters.

Mr. McKensie said the Condor's roost along the Top of the ridge just west of the summit, in big pines. He has ~~hidden~~ ^{seen} under the trees where the Condor roost while the birds are still in the trees. He claims to have ~~seen~~ ^{seen} two dead Condor in late years. Both these dead Condor were near, or in, water along the creek. One dead Condor Gib McKensie thought was about two years ago. He could not tell how far back he saw the other dead Condor, but not too many years back, he stated.

Gib McKensie thinks Condor are not as plentiful as was the case in years past. He said that 60 or 70 Condor would follow the squirrel poisoning gangs, on Tejon ranch, when he was a young fellow. He thinks he has seen 100 Condor in one flock about 1930.

There is little doubt of Gib McKensie's knowing Condors. Not only does he know Condor but he must have spent some time observing them from the way he will describe their actions when explaining some feature or behavior activity of Condor in action. He told me that he enjoys seeing Condor in flight and marveling at their ability to remain aloft, in soaring flight with no apparent effort. Mr. McKensie will -



California Condor.

Eben McMillan

2 October 1953

Keep on the lookout for Condor and pass on to us any information regarding the birds that he comes by.

I drove to the dam (earth fill) at mouth of Tionis Canyon and met Mr. Lawrence Nord, the hunter checker, who is camped there in his house trailer. He told me of seeing four Condor near the top of the range at the headwaters of Tion Canyon two years ago. He said these Condor were feeding on the remains of a small fawn deer. When he first came upon ~~them~~ the four Condor feeding he thought they were buzzards but soon noticed how big they were so paid more particular attention to them then recognizing them to be Condor.

Mr. Nord told me of seeing several dead heifers a few days ago south across the Tion basin in the area of the old Ostrich farm. I drove to this location and found one heifer lying dead under one of the large Electric power towers that cross the flats into the Pastorica Canyon, on Tion, and another pair of dead heifers about one-half mile west of the first one. It was hard to detect what ^{causes} these heifers died from, but I would suspect shortage of water. The carcasses of these heifers were bloated to a maximum. No sign could be found where scavengers of any sort had fed on these carcasses. Flies were thick everywhere. They appeared to be common house flies.

I drove to the grove of trees that marks where the old Ostrich farm used to be located. This is near the foot of the mountain ^{and} to the left of where highway 99 enters Grapevine Canyon, on East, about two miles. No Condor about. Saw more than fifteen sparrow ^{hawks} ~~hawks~~ flying or perched in the eucalyptus, and Tamarisk, trees here.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 October 1963

The remainder of the day was spent along the foothills from Ostrich farm to Old Ranch Headquarters. Few hawks, no buzzards nor condor were seen this pm. The buzzard I saw on road near old headquarters was the only buzzard seen today. A Swainson's hawk, that had been dead for some month, was on the ground under trees at the Ostrich farm.

Survey stakes marking where a new roadway will pass from the mouth of Grapevine Canyon to mouth of Pastoria Canyon where construction on the tunnel to carry Feather River water under the Tehachap's Range is soon to commence. A backhoe was working at mouth of Pastoria Canyon today.

Ob & Co. photographs were taken of the dead heifers.

I visited Jack ^{Jantzzen} ~~Jantzzen~~ at 5:00 P.M. at his camp east of Arvin. He gave me a report of two birds he thought were condor that he saw sometime back on a hillside near the corrals at the foot of sheep trail grade. I feel sure, after hearing his description of the two birds he saw, at that place, that they were Golden Eagles for he remembered seeing white on the tail of one. This would appear to be an immature Golden Eagle.

It was when I cleared the town of Wasco, going west, that the sun sank into the smog and actually was ~~lost~~ so dim as to be recognized only as a dull pinkish red ball as it passed out of sight below the horizon. An ominous sight if ever I saw one.

hullify
ntzen Condor
ighting

California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

Fog from the west rolled into Choice valley at 6:30 A.M. Ian came at 8:00 A.M. and we left for Ventura County in his vehicle. We stopped briefly in Taft to check on a Condor sighting by Bob Marshall, whose office in a bank was not yet open, so we moved on to Malibu where a brief check gave evidence that Bert ^{Shedden} ~~Shedden~~ had gone to his ranch. We proceeded to head of Quatel Canyon via Mt. Abel and Klipsten roads. Klipsten Canyon could not look more abused. A very marginal area that produces well for an optimum number of livestock, but that when overstocked, resembles a bad-lands in appearance. This is the way Klipsten Canyon looks now.

We stopped at the ceramics factory operated by Mr. and Mrs. Linstrom at the head of Ballanger Canyon. These two young people seem most interested in the outdoors and profess a deep concern for the welfare of our Natural Resources as well as a public conscience towards the care, and use of, these resources. They had seen no condor although they felt sure they would recognize them should any come by. They had seen Golden Eagles lately.

We stopped in the upper part of Quatel Canyon and gathered some pinon pine nuts that were still in cones that had freshly fallen from the trees. There seems to be an ample crop of nuts in the Quatel Canyon area. Clark Nutcrackers were already down in the Canyon working on this food item.

Arriving on the ridge that runs south from Rose Canyon Falls to the Chief Peak, and Hines Peak, that is East of the upper reaches of the North Fork of the Ventura river, we found the weather shutting in —

California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

Whereby visibility was lowered to a few feet and further progress made unwise, so we gave up the planned hike into Hines Peak and returned to Ozeira Guard station where we chatted briefly with the three men who were in the shop building there, doing some planning. We were told that other personnel of this station had gone with a seeder to the Re-veg area on Santa Barbara potreritos. They said that a bulldozer was clearing brush there now and that seeding would follow as soon as this work was done. It was also substantiated that District warden Morse would be in his Office in Cuyama providing he could get there before five o'clock.

We arrived at U.S. Forest ^{Service} Office in Cuyama at 4:40 P.M. and were cordially greeted and invited into his office by Ed Morse. Ranger Morse briefed us in on happenings in his district during the recent coastal deer season as well as the openings of fire closures in his area.

Ranger Morse related how the opening of fire closure areas in the Las Padres area works. He said that openings of Fire Closure areas to hunting, whenever weather conditions permit, have been something that has been discussed among district Rangers in the Las Padres forest for years and the fact that these areas were ~~not~~ only allowed to be opened in late years is the result of a change in administration at the supervisor level and that "a more progressive Supervisor" now is sympathetic to such actions. Mr. Morse said that the former supervisor was old and did not care to ~~tackle~~ ~~tackle~~ tackle new problems. Mr. Morse is strongly in favor of opening fire closure to hunting whenever weather conditions will permit such acts.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

Ranger Morse, in discussing the past deer hunting season with us, stated that the deer kill in the Las Padres National Forest, in 1963, was down, and the hunter use down. "Let's face it" he said, in referring to the shortage of deer, "even though disease has taken its toll of deer; even though Coyotes are killing many young deer; and even though Mountain Lions present a problem in deer numbers, nevertheless, we don't know just what is responsible for the present shortage of deer". Ranger Morse stated that only three deer had been observed using the RE-leg area on Santa Barbara Potrero, at the headwaters of Santa Barbara Canyon, and Salisbury Canyon, in the Cuyama River drainage, and Sesquoc River drainage. These were a three point buck and a doe and fawn. He also said the hunter ~~use~~ usage of the Rancho Nuevo special deer hunting area, that was opened three years ago in the Rancho Nuevo Canyon, and Tinta Canyon areas of the west side drainage of Cuyama valley, near the Ventura, Santa Barbara County line, has fallen from 2000 hunters in 1961 to only a fraction of that number now. In looking up deer kill records for this special Rancho Nuevo area, Mr. Morse was a bit chagrined to find circles representing spots where deer had been killed in this area in the year 1959, when it was not supposed to be open to hunting at any time. He left the matter of ~~deer~~ ^{deer} hunting at this point.

In answer to Ian's inquiry regarding procedure in our getting into the Big Pine ~~Mount~~ Mountain and Sesquoc drainage this fall, Mr. Morse stated that his orders were to give us all possible assistance in the ^{pursuit} ~~prossuit~~ of the Condor study, and that he understood we were not to be treated in the normal way but be allowed special access to all areas.



Cherry

P. 362

California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

Ranger Morse advised us to come to his office, at which place we would be given a permit to enter, and a key, for the locked gates, on the roadways of any areas within his jurisdiction whenever we deemed it necessary to enter any of these areas, to do Condor research work.

Mr. Bert Shadden who lives in Maricopa, Kern County California and operates a livestock operation in, and to the west of, Bitter and Santiago creeks, in southwestern Kern County, said he had not been seeing many Condor this fall. He thought this might be due to his cows not being effected to seriously, this fall, with foothill abortion. He thought it too late for ~~large~~ large concentrations of Condor, such as he has seen in past years, to come to his area to feed. Mr. Shadden did say he saw seven Condor on Monday or Tuesday that were trying to get

to, and feed on, a calf that had been born the Saturday before, but were prevented from doing so by a cow that stood guard over the carcass of this calf, and would chase any Condor away that came near. In describing the incident Mr. Shadden said that the cow, evidently hungry from the confinement of guarding the calf, would commence to graze away from the calf carcass. When this was done, one of the seven Condor would walk in and try to get at the calf carcass only to be chased away by the cow, ~~when~~ that upon seeing the Condor approach the calf carcass, would return and pursue the Condor a short distance from the calf carcass when the cow —

Food
mixed

Condor

Food →



California Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

came in pursuit of the Condor. It would only amble away a few feet, in front of its pursuer, and stop retreating as soon as the Cow let up in the chase. Mr. Shedden saw three such chases of the Cow running a Condor away from the Calf Carcass before he left the scene.

During the day three Golden Eagles, two of which were immature in plumage, the third bird did not allow for age or plumage identification, were ~~seen~~ seen playfully flying about on the brisk wind currents that were striking the west slope of the east side of the valley up which highway 166 goes west from Maricopa, Kern County, California and about two miles to the southwest of Maricopa. No other large birds were observed during the day. The wind blew quite strongly throughout this trip.

When proceeding down Sespe valley below Big Pine Cafe, or Sandstone Public Campground, we came upon two men, one on each side of the road, casting material from a bag hung from their shoulder with their hands. We passed these two men without stopping but proceeded on wondering the purpose of their activities. About one-quarter mile on past where these two men were walking in the same direction we were going, we passed an automobile parked at the side of the highway that had a (E) on its license plate designating it as a County vehicle. We were now in Ventura County. As we drove on down the Sespe valley, past this vehicle (County) about two hundred yards we came upon two more men, each with a bag slung from his shoulder, casting handfuls of material along the roadside with each

Rodent
Poisoning
food



~~Scatter~~

P-364

california Condor

Eben McMillan

4 October 1963

Two or three steps. We stopped and inquired of these men what they were scattering along the highway. They said they were poisoning squirrels. To our question as to what type of poison they were throwing out they replied it was Strychnine.

We saw no squirrels along this highway. Both sides of the roadway are bordered by heavy chaparral brush cover, in which ground squirrels would find it hard to live. This poisoning campaign must be a holdover from the bubonic plague case that was reported to have been contracted in the Lockwood Valley area of Northern Ventura County about 1955 or 1956.

*Santa Barbara
Ventura*

California Condor Eben McMillan 5 October 1963

The sky was somewhat overcast, a brisk west wind was blowing and it was cool as we drove down highway 101 from Paso Robles to Santa Barbara and Ventura. At 4:20 AM, thirteen buzzards were observed rising up out of some oak trees, that grow about one quarter mile west of the highway, at a point one mile north of Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County, California. These buzzards were continuing to circle when we last saw them. At 9:30 AM, ten-plus, buzzards were noted circling in a very scattered group about one mile west of Santa Margarita, S.L.O. County, California. These buzzards too were still circling when last seen over this same area.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 October 1963

several Red Tailed Hawks were seen over the cotton and alfalfa fields west of Wasco, California about 9:00 A.M. Harvesting of cotton was in progress and great numbers of a wooly ^{caterpillar} ~~caterpillars~~ were making their way about on the ground going in every direction. This may have concentrated these hawks but I saw none feeding on the ^{caterpillars} ~~caterpillars~~. The morning was mild, calm, and for the first ^{time} ~~time~~ in more than three months, the air was somewhat clear on the floor of the lower San Joaquin valley in the Wasco-Shafter area.

Jose Salaburu, a 20 year old Basque shepherd, who has been in the States only one year, tended a flock of ewes, belonging to Joe ^{mendiaburu} ~~mendiaburu~~, south of the road as it enters the Canyon east of Famosa, California, where the oil fields are situated and which road leads to Woody and Granite Station. Shepherd Salaburu said that only a few lambs were being born and that it would be another two weeks before lambing begins in full force. He had seen no Coyotes, no Foxes, no Eagles, nor other predators attacking the sheep that he ^{cares} ~~cares~~ for, this fall. He will be on the lookout for Condor and record their appearance for me.

Mrs. Dorothy Albittie, who ranches to the west of Woody, California about two miles, in answer to my inquiries concerning her finding of the ^{dead} ~~dead~~ Condor which I got from Mrs. Margaret Brown, of Granite Station, showed little interest in the fact that it was a Condor. Carcass she had found. In fact she stated that when coming upon the carcass of the Condor as she was poisoning squirrels for Carl West, her attention was ~~at~~ only drawn to the object by her horse becoming frightened of it and not wanting to pass by where it lay. According to her statement to —

Albittie
ad condor
Margaret Brown
Bird
not used



California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 October 1963

me this morning Mrs. Albitre did not notice that it was a Condor. She only recognized it as a large bird and mentioned to Carl West, when she met him a few minutes later, that she had seen the Carcass of a big eagle or some large bird. She thought the Carcass appeared rather fresh when she first saw it, but she did ~~not~~ mention of how it smelled.

Dorothy Albitre stated that it made no difference to her if the Condor she found on the Carl West ranch was a buzzard, an Eagle, or a Condor. "What different does it make," she said, "what is different about a dead Condor than any other dead bird". "They are no good, you can't eat them, or sell them". "Why all this fuss about Condor". "What do they want to keep Condor for. They are no good". This she stated to me in a questioning attitude. Actually I think Mrs. Albitre felt left out in that Carl West and Margaret Brown had ~~been~~ received recognition as having been instrumental in making it possible for us to get the Condor Carcass. She acted as though her feelings had been a bit hurt by our not coming to get information from ^{her} ~~her~~ before now. At least, Mrs. Albitre tried to impress me with her disrespect for all large birds particularly those that might bother her sheep. She stated that last spring, two large birds, that she took to be Eagles, ^{that} ~~that~~ were found feeding on the Carcass of one of her lambs, that was good sized and would weigh forty pounds. These two birds, when come upon feeding, walked up the hill about fifty feet, before flying away. Had she ~~been~~ been in possession of her rifle she would have shot these two birds that she felt sure had killed the large lamb. These two birds could have been Condor for Eagles would have probably flown directly from the Carcass in the event she came upon them feeding, at a distance of only 200 feet, or so. Condor would be more apt to walk up a hill such as these birds did. —

Eagles feed
sheep?

food →

(Condor?
meat)

California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 October 1963

After gaining what information needed from Mrs. Albitre, before engaging her in debate about wildlife preservation, I then proceeded in an effort to influence her thinking so that she might not shoot Condor, or Eagles, when they come to feed on her dead sheep. At first she stated she would shoot any animal that came to harm any of her animals from which she had to make her living, even though she might get thrown in jail for so doing. We conversed on this matter for nearly an hour and I firmly believe that her attitude towards predators was changed to the point whereby Condor, at ~~least~~^{least}, in the future, will not be shot on her property, if she can be sure any birds in question feeding on her dead sheep, are Condor, ^{she} will not be molested. She also indicated her willingness to call Riley Patterson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife predator control officer in Bakersfield, should anything commence harming her sheep, or cattle, again.

The above was an experiment in seeing if people, within the range of Condor, can be acquainted with an understanding of why Condor should be protected. If properly approached I am sure this can be done. Not only do I feel this can be done, but I also feel an educational movement of this sort is a necessity if Condor are to remain within their present range for any length of time, in the future. What Condor would be shot, or disturbed, by an enlightened human population, within their range, would be a negative factor in their ~~wellfare~~^{welfare} compared to what now goes on through ignorance and a disrespectful attitude by the general public towards wildlife in general.

Mrs. Dorothy Albitre could easily develop a respectful and knowledgeable attitude towards Condor, and wildlife in general, were some effort made.

Glenville

California condor.

Eben McMillan

9 October 1967

by conservation interests to neutralize ^{the} propaganda continually being fed these people by those who have some personal interest at stake. Mrs. Albire mentioned of allowing the Trail hound people to come in with their dogs who according to their information would soon rid her lands of any predatory mammals. Thus when her lambs continued to die these hound men, or persons, influenced her into thinking that birds such as Eagles or the like had to be responsible for the depredations for their dogs had cleared out all the mammalian predators. Trappers - poisoners and many others who would stand to gain by having Mrs. Albire continue thinking Condor and Eagles, or predators in general, were responsible for her problems had been working to see that she continued to think in these terms. She had been told that the scarcity of Deer in her area was due to Coyotes, bobcats and Mountain Lions. No one had been talking to her that would tend to counteract the type of thinking these factions would instill in her mind. When leaving her place she asked that I stop by again and discuss these matters more fully.

Henry Bowen who operates a large cattle outfit at the headwaters of Poso Creek to the east of Blue Ridge Lookout in northern Kern County, told me he wouldn't know a Condor if he found one in his front yard. He said he has never paid attention to Condor or birds of any sort even though he was in the Glenville-Jack Ranch area as a young boy. He said that his father-in-law, Jeff Carver, had told him many years ago that Condor used to nest in the area around Tobias Peak before 1890. Henry Bowen said he would like to see doe deer shot for he feels they will become a problem if left to multiply unchecked. He thinks deer hunters are a -



Chambersville

California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 October 1963

irresponsible group that should be controlled more effectively.

He feels that with the numbers of deer hunters increasing each year that the problems between them and private land owners will become more acute. He feels deer hunters will ^{become} more powerful in their demands to be allowed to hunt on private lands.

Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth had seen no condor lately. A cow belonging to her neighbor had died up the canyon above her house, last week, from what was thought to be the effects of a deer hunters bullet. No condor, nor even a buzzard, came to feed on the carcass of this cow. She said the last buzzards went south about the last two days of September.

I telephoned Marion Vincent from the Woody Fire Guard station. Marion said that the only condor he had seen of late was two birds circling over his house on August 2, 1963. He is moving his cows down from the upper ranch next week to calve out at his home place. Only seven or eight calves have been dropped so far. Marion thinks condor will come in when his cows commence calving heavily.

The man who works as relief lookout at Blue Ridge Lookout northeast of Woody said in a telephone conversation that he had not seen condor in the area of Blue Ridge Lookout for two years.

Mrs. Tim Holmes, a young lady who has lived in Poso Flats between Granite Station and Greenhorn Ridge, has never seen a condor, but knows they are around and would very much like to see one. She told me that condor had been seen near the Tim Ben Williams home recently.

Mrs. Smith, who lives in Poso Flats and has been living there since 1933, professes a knowledge and an interest in birds of -



California Condor

Eben McMillan

9 October 1963

all species did not know that condor inhabited California and when told of my mission appeared concerned that I could be looking for something that was non-existent in this state. Mrs. Smith introduced me to Jack Sarret, her son in law, who told me of seeing condor over the village of Woody, but never in the Poso Flats area.

Stopping at a bend in the road that traverses the top of Greenhorn ridge, to the south of where the Eugene Grade reaches the top of this ridge, I picked up the carcass of a spotted owl, (*Strix occidentalis*) that lay on the ground at the mouth of a small draw into which many hunters (deer) had driven and parked their vehicles since the deer season opened. The remains of packages and cans were strewn about this small flat in which the owl body lay it being flattened out by having been passed over many times by the wheels of automobiles. Several empty cartridge cases of 22 caliber and larger rifles were about. Evidently much shooting had gone on in this draw.

no condor

spotted owl

Greenhorn Condor

California condor

Eben McMillan

10 October 1963

I camped last night at the summer home of Hugh and Charlotte Smith on Greenhorn ridge. They had seen no condor of late. Hugh Smith went into detail in describing to me how irresponsible the average deer hunter is that come to the Greenhorn mountain to hunt deer. He feels their disrespect can only be attributed to ignorance and frustration. He thinks they are searching for some value while being lost themselves. Both he and Mrs. Smith appear to ^edislike all deer hunters.

Remic Albrite had seen no condor. He has been troubled by hawks attacking his chickens. I think Mr. Albrite would shoot most large birds. His Indian ancestry perhaps would give rise to his feeling of being persecuted and this shooting of predators may give ^{him} some escape from this feeling. He is very protective towards small creatures and prey species.

The following are sightings of Condor made by Helen King from her Lookout Tower at Oak Flat.

6 October 1963 at 2:45 P.M. one Condor passing Lookout headed ^{South} ~~North~~

6 October 1963 at 11:15 A.M. one Condor heading North

1 " " " 11:24 A.M. one Condor over Lookout -

Mrs. Glen Record came to the Oak Flat Lookout Tower while I was there.

she told me that ^{no member} ~~none~~ of her family had seen Condor this summer or fall season. Glen Record is to commence working his cattle on the west slope of Breckenridge mountain soon. She will remind him to keep looking for Condor.

It is becoming evident that few people notice Condor even when the birds frequent their area for several days in succession. This must explain the reason Condor are able to ~~disappear~~ disappear and be very difficult to relocate as a group. Helen King keeps insisting that most Condor

Condor

no Condor

Oak Flat

California Condor

Eben McMillan

10 October 1963

pass the Oak flat Lookout heading Northwest. If one stands on the railing outside the Oak flat Lookout Tower and looks first Southeast, and then Northwest, it is easy to make out a general fault line in the ~~structure~~ structure of the Sierra Nevada foothills along this route that corresponds generally with the Granite outcropping that commences to the south of White Wolf pass on the Tejon Ranch east of Arvin and continues Northwestward at least to the area about Raymond to the north of Highway 41 in Madera County. This fault line follows on a line where most Condor observations, by residents of the West slope of the Sierra Nevada range, have been made. Poso flats is not on this fault.

It remains as a point of interest that Frazier Mountain Lookout and Oak flat Lookout record Condor going North much more than they do going south. Could it be that Condor returning to the Sespe River drainage in Ventura County ~~could maintain~~ from points north of the Caliente River drainage in Kern County would fly high enough to make identification by people on the ground unlikely. Gib McKensie thinks they fly west from Tejon Canyon and continue directly across the lower San Joaquin Valley to the Temblor or San Emigdio areas. Perhaps these Condor are heading west only to make the turn around West slope of Brush Mountain and Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Able), cross San Emigdio mesa and drop into the Sespe drainage without having crossed any mountain barriers more than five thousand feet in elevation.

Routes -



*and for
Rensberger*

california condor

Eben McMillan

12 October 1963

The National Audubon Society, Conservation Resource Center at 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California sent me today, in the mail, a postcard that had been mailed them on 30 September 1963, which confirmed an observation made by one John Rensberger, Museum Scientist, Paleontology, R.M. 35, Earth Science Bldg, University of Calif. Berkeley 4, Calif. of a young condor feeding on Carrion on the highway approximately half way between ^{Logan} ~~Logan~~ Butte and Brothers in central Oregon. "It's plumage was dark except for its tail, indicating a young bird" so stated Mr. John Rensberger in this card.

Jack Martins of La Panza Ranch told me today that Bud Zimmerman had seen three condor up the river above the La Panza Ranch house about five weeks ~~ago~~ ago. I will check on this tomorrow.

Condor?
not entered -

Condor
not entered -

california condor

Eben Mcmillan

13 October 1963

Talking to the old, fat, shepherd who herds for Martins and Asparin and who has been in the Carrisa plains area with sheep since last spring told me that he had seen three, and maybe four, Condor feed on the carcass of a sheep that lay within one hundred yards of where he stood near the old San Juan Cow Camp about eight miles northwest of ^{Carrisa} ~~Carrisa~~ plains school. He said that the band of sheep he was herding were bedded around the water^{at} ~~at~~ the Cow Camp. When the Condor came in to feed, but that the Trailer in which he lives had just been moved, to another location. Another shepherd was with him. They both thought Condor much different than buzzards. They said much white was under these birds wings.

Jack Martins told me that Bud Zimmermann, who works for him on the Lapanza Ranch, had reported seeing three Condor in the San Juan River area south of Lapanza Ranch about three weeks ago. Bud Zimmermann also saw Condor at this same location on the following day. I will get the particulars on this observation when I see Bud Zimmermann.

Stopping at the sheep camp of Alex Galanini on the southwest end of Soda Lake in the Carrisa plains I learned from him that during the summer he had seen several large birds come to feed on dead sheep near his camp. No large birds have been seen lately.

Five Sandhill cranes flew overhead at a moderate elevation, heading southwards, over county road that passes along west side of Soda Lake. These cranes remained voiceless as they passed, and were traveling slowly, soaring mostly, looking intently about, and continued on south until out of my sight.

Cholame Flats

california condor

Eben Mcmillan

14 October 1963

While on the Cholame flats Northwest of Cholame Today from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. I saw only one bird of Buzzard size, or larger, in the air. The day was warm and balmy with a gentle west breeze blowing in the afternoon. The one bird I did see was circling moderately high over the highway about one mile south-
~~East~~^{East} of the Cholame Ranch headquarters.

Jet planes passed low down the Cholame valley on two separate occasions as I was in this valley today. These planes, flying at high speeds, might discourage large birds from circling over these areas.

No dead livestock were observed on the Cholame flats.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

15 October 1963

an inspection was made of the Reg Freeman Ranch today in the hopes of seeing condor. Mr. Freeman had observed two condor on successive days during deer hunting season, this fall, roosting in a tall pine tree at the head of the Canyon ~~that~~ in which Mr. Freeman's house is situated. I saw no condor but did see at least three different Golden Eagles, two adults and one immature, also a ferruginous roughlegged hawk and two Red Tailed hawks.

Reg Freeman described to me how his wife, upon seeing the condor, on the first day, they were observed roosting in the pine tree, thought them to be Eagles but was straightened out by Mr. Freeman who immediately recognized them as condor. Evidently both birds were adults for Mrs. Freeman told me how their legs looked white up to the knee joint and their heads were bright orange. The Freeman's evidently did not disturb the condor on this day for on the following day Mr. Freeman passed this way with several other deer hunters, and approaching the pine tree where the birds were the day before, noted them sitting in the same position, in the same tree. Mr. Freeman said he passed by the tree, going nearly under where the two condor ~~was~~ perched without their flying. At a distance of about 200 feet from this tree Mr. Freeman wanted to flush the condor in order that his hunting partners could see them, and in this attempt he had to resort to yelling and waving of his hands before the two condor slowly stretched their wings and flew. Freeman said he could have easily killed either of these condor with a small caliber rifle or even a shotgun loaded with large shot.

Condor
Vulnerable

Tame

vulnerable

California Condor

Eben McMillan

15 October 1963

Condor
entered

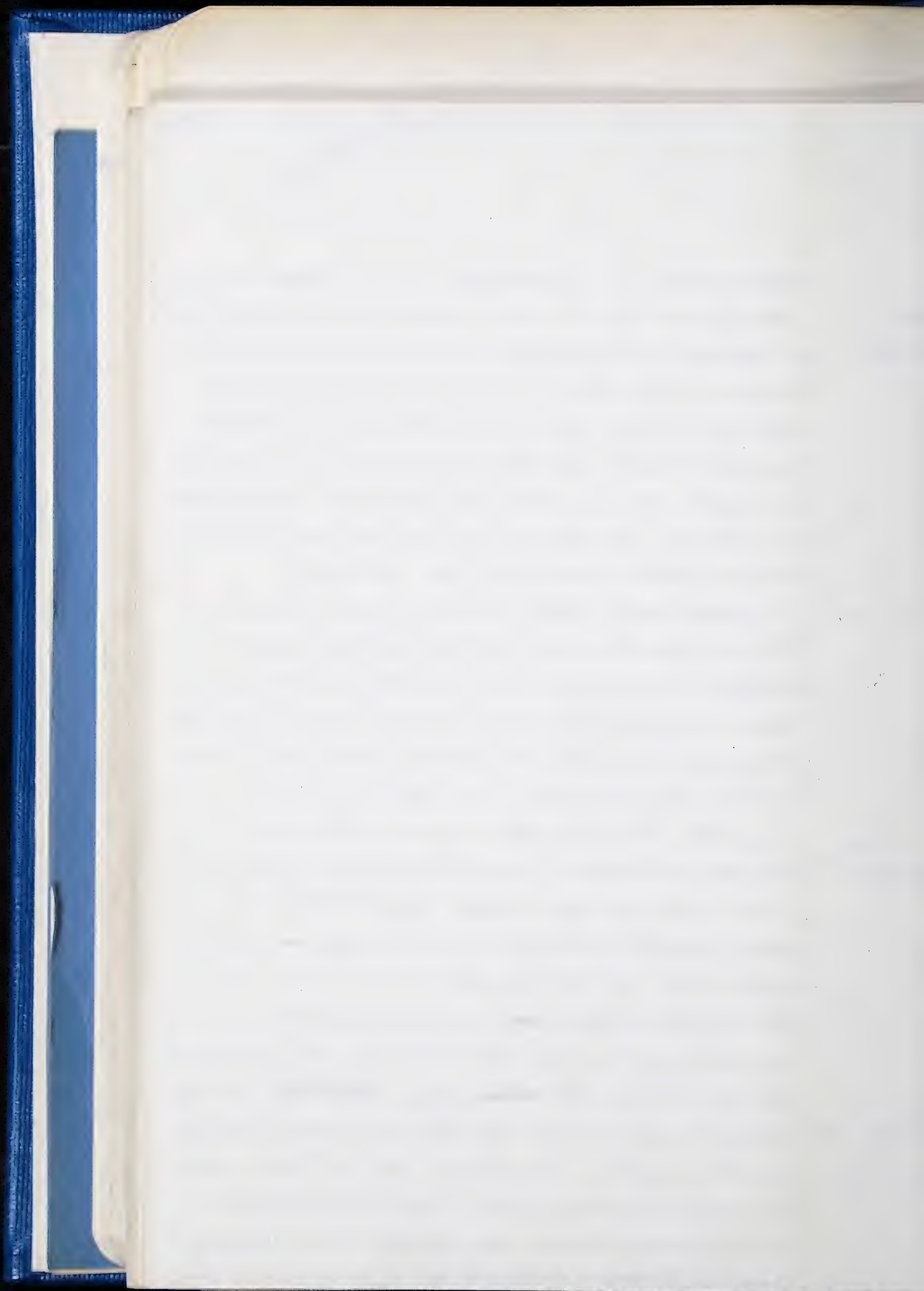
Mr. Reg Freeman also saw another Condor that was being chased by an Eagle, pass about two hundred feet above his house flying up the Canyon some time back. I am has the dates on these observations having gotten them from Mr. Freeman some weeks ago. I enter his observations for the value of his remarks upon being able to get so close to the two Condor in the pine tree and his remarks that he could have easily shot them with a small caliber gun or shotgun.

In describing the Condor to me Mr. Freeman quoted, "They sure were nice birds". Both Mr. and Mrs. Freeman stopped mixing cement when I went to their place and seemed very interested in talking about Condor to me. They will be watching for further observations on Condor and will be helpful in their preservation I am sure.

Condor

I called Jim Ben Williams of Granite Station about 8:00 P.M. He told me of seeing a lone Condor sitting on a rock about two miles south of Granite Station on 14 October about 4:00 P.M. a cow was standing near a calf carcass about 100 feet from where the Condor sat. As Jim Ben drove to within ~~ten~~ one hundred feet distance of the Condor, the cow, that was also about 100 feet distance from Mr. Williams also, ~~thinking~~ being accustomed to being fed from the jeep, left her dead calf and walked towards Mr. Williams position. As soon as the cow left the calf carcass, the Condor flew a distance where it landed on the ground and walked towards the carcass. Upon seeing the Condor advancing towards the calf carcass, the cow returned and pursued the Condor, that

Good



~~P 379~~
P 379

California Condor:

Eben McMillan

15 October 1963

flew to another rock and perched. The cow remained near the calf carcass. Jim Ben Williams' wife walked up a draw near this location where the cow, the calf carcass and the Condor were, about 4:30 p.m. the Condor flew from the rock upon seeing her and it continued to circle the area for a considerable time before disappearing.

Condor ✓
Dead Condor ✓
Jim Ben Williams also told me that two fellows who live near Woody had seen three Condor a few days ago. They also said they had seen a dead Condor near a feed bunk which they tossed into a pile of rocks nearby, this about three weeks ago.

I promised Jim Ben Williams that I would be at his house by 8:30 A.M. tomorrow to investigate the dead Condor story.

Granite Station

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 October 1963

condor)
y entered
found -
ndor -
used
before

It rained throughout the night. I drove to Granite Station, arriving at the home of Jim Ben Williams by 8:00 A.M. It had rained there also but only ^{lightly} ~~lightly~~. Both Jim Ben and his wife redescribed to me the condor sighting experience of last Monday. It was just as he had described it to me last night. Jim Ben said the calf that the condor was near on Monday was the only one out of five calves that had died within the last six weeks that had been eaten on by anything excepting the ^{calf} ~~calf~~ carcasses that the nine condors were feeding on below his house on 13 September 1963. Mrs. Williams said she had her rifle in the Jeep and could have easily shot this condor had she been of a mind to do so. Both Jim Ben and Mrs. Williams thought they saw a growth, or a wattle such as a turkey Gobbler has on the front of its head on this condor's head.

will + visit
condor

Mrs. Jim Ben Williams told me that when discussing with several ladies of the Cow Belles, an auxiliary of the California Cattlemen's Association, at a meeting in Bakersfield, ^{of} their seeing condor in the Granite Station area lately, a Mrs. Freyberger, who lives in Buttonwillow and whose husband manages a cattle feedlot for the Houchin interests in the Buttonwillow area, had seen a condor near the feedlot in Buttonwillow. She told Mrs. Williams that several buzzards had remained about the feedlot during the summer and that one condor was seen with them on one occasion. I will check into this.

Range
Condor -

Frank Stockton, who lives in Bakersfield, but ranches in the Granite Station area, came to the Jim Ben Williams home soon after I arrived ^{there} ~~there~~. He told me of seeing 7 or 8 condors flying high above Florence Lake at the headwaters of the South fork of the San Joaquin River in the high Sierra Nevada range. Mr. Frank Stockton also saw one -



Granite Station

california condor

Eben McMillan

16 October 1963

condor near his house which is located about three miles north of Granite station. This condor was on the ground when Mr. Frank Stockton first saw it. The condor upon seeing Frank approaching left the waterhole and walked up a hillside nearby passing among the large Granite rocks that cover the hills all along the Sierra Nevada foothills, on the west slope, at this elevation. Frank Stockton walked after this condor and was able to approach to within fifty feet of this bird that after walking up this hill about two hundred feet before climbing onto a rock where it remained while Frank looked at it for some time before leaving the area with the condor still perched on a rock. Frank Stockton at first thought this condor to be sick or ~~injured~~ injured, but after watching the condor for some time then felt the bird to be normal. Frank Stockton said he could have shot this condor easily with any small caliber rifle, or even a shotgun.

Frank Stockton also saw other condor this summer but could not remember dates nor numbers. He mentioned that deer are much less in numbers this year than ~~it~~ has been the case in past years. He feels they have suffered some set-back.

Driving to the ranch of Clara Stockton Armstrong that is about two miles north of Granite station, I met Jessie Stockton who ~~owns~~ owns property in this area. He offered to guide me to the Clara Stockton Armstrong ranch. He said that during his seventy two years, all of which have been spent in the general Bakersfield-Granite station area, he has seen condor off and on. He thought condor to be more plentiful in the 1920 and 1930's.

He ^{saw} a condor flying over Tobias Peak Northwest of Kernville many years ago.

Jessie Stockton said he had always remained ~~secretive~~ ^{secretive} about any

note -

Verab -

History

Condor

→



Granite Station

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 October 1963

information regarding Condor for he felt it best that the general public, who do all the shooting and dumping of trash along the roads, know nothing of their whereabouts.

At the Clara Stockton Armstrong ranch I met Philip Armstrong, a man of about forty years old who manages the ranch for Mrs. Armstrong. He readily admitted finding a dead Condor and after relaying to me the information as to incidents leading to its discovery he dispatched Gary Snow, a young fellow, and Native of the Granite Station-Woody area, who works for him, to accompany me to the spot where the Condor remains were. Mr. Snow and I drove Eastward from the Armstrong house one mile to an Oak woodland ~~flat~~ through which the road passed. Turning off this road to the right and driving up a swale, about two hundred yards, we came to a self-feeder that is used to furnish concentrated feed to calves. A barbed wire fence having ~~been~~ enclosed this feeder that is so constructed that only small calves may enter the enclosure to obtain this feed. Fifty feet to the north of this feeder a medium sized live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) stood among scattered large boulders of granite. Among these boulders lay the remains of a Condor that had been thrown here by Snow and Philip Armstrong ~~about~~ about one week ago from a place where it was first seen, close by the north side of the cattle feeder, that is mentioned before. The ~~spot~~ ^{spot} where the Condor was first found by Philip Armstrong was pointed ~~to~~ out to me by Gary Snow. This was on the outside of the fence that encloses the cattle feeder and within two feet of this fence. The ground still showed stains where the Condor body had lain before being removed to the area among the rocks under the Oak tree, this having been done to prevent the cattle from becoming frightened of the Condor -

Dead Condor -
already noted



California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 October 1963

remains and not come near the feeder to eat. The Condor remains were damp this morning from last night's rain. NO maggots were in evidence. The underside, or belly, which had been next to the ground while the bird lay near the feeder but was now on the upper side, showed much decomposition and the feathers here were matted and soiled. Otherwise the feathers were in good shape. The Condor remains had lost all or most of its body fluids and was quite light to handle. The Tail was not stiff and would fall down when the bird was lifted in a horizontal position. Gary Snow and I loaded the Condor remains into the pickup, covered it with a canvas and returned with it to the ranch-house where Philip Armstrong was cooking lunch.

Philip Armstrong told me that when he first saw the Condor body lying by the cattle feeder ~~that~~ that it had maggots all about the ground under where it lay. That was on September 23, 1963, give or take a day or so. He thought the Condor had roosted on the roof of this cattle feeder for several days before falling to the ground and dying for he noted that the roof of the feeder was covered with white excrement that appeared to have been defecated by a large bird. The spot where the cattle feeder is located and near where I found this Condor remains is about 2 miles northeast of Granite Station.

The Condor body when first seen on September 23, was first thought to be that of a big buzzard by Philip Armstrong. He mentioned this to Gary Snow about that time but Snow, even though he knew what a Condor looked like, did not think of associating Armstrong's description of a big Buzzard with a Condor. Upon seeing the remains a week ago at which time both Snow and Armstrong tossed it among the rocks under the Oak tree, Snow immediately recognized it as a Condor. This -



Revised 1/14

California Condor

Eben McMillan

16 October 1963

then led to Philip Armstrong mentioning this incident to Tim Ben Williams who in turn telephoned me regarding his findings.

Gary Snow informed me of seeing four Condor feeding on a dead deer about two miles southwest of Woody, Kern Co. California last Sunday October 13, 1963.

I crossed the valley and arrived home at 2:40 AM.

Condor - }
ready noted }



California Condor

Eben McMillan

18 October 1963

Ian, Chester Lyons and I left for Ventura County via the Carrisa plains and Coyama valley at 9:30 A.M. in my pickup. We saw eight sandhill cranes in a plowed field one-half mile south of the Dewey Werling ranch house, on the west side of Soda Lake, on the Carrisa plains. Not much rain had fallen from the last storm ~~in~~ to the south of Soda Lake. Arriving in the Ventura river drainage, on highway 399 at 12:45 A.M. we left the highway and took a forest service road that leads south from the Howard Creek drainage along the crest of the ridge between the Ventura and Sespe river drainage to the end of public entry at a spot near the north end of Topa Topa Bluffs. Here Chester Lyons left us and drove on to Ventura in my pickup. Ian and I hiked on to the north of Hines peak where we walked out on a ridge overlooking the Topa Topa complex and the upper Sespe drainage. We saw no large birds in this area.

At sunset we arrived in Last Chance Camp on the headwaters of Santa Paula ~~river~~^{Creek} having threaded our way along ~~a~~ a trail that was well overgrown in places, ~~passing~~^{that passed} to the west of Hines peak and then south to Last Chance Camp.

Showers fell throughout the afternoon but nothing heavy. It was mild and calm at sunset. The trail that we followed from Hines peak to Last Chance Camp had been little used, if any, this year. The new road that has been only recently constructed by the forest service from the north end of Topa Topa Bluffs to the north side of Hines peak shows signs of public use. Cigarette remains can be found along this route, as can be beer cans and other cast away objects, and on two occasions we picked up pistol cartridges that had been fired from this road, and numerous other empty shell cases including shotgun shell cases.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

19 October 1963

Ian and I arose from our bags before sunrise and after a hasty breakfast were on our way. The sky was clear but hazy. The air was damp. A blanket of fog lay below the 2000 foot elevation. No sign of recent usage was in evidence around Last Chance Camp except for horse tracks and manure. We saw many white Throated Swifts, several Fox Sparrow, lots of both brown and rufous sided Towhees and several small units of Western bluebirds; Anna's hummingbirds were about most of the time and Wren-Tits called continually from the Chaparral.

at 11:00 A.M., at a spot on the trail on the Northwest side of Santa Paula River bed, and about one quarter mile above the river bottom, and about one-half way down river from Last Chance Camp. To Big Cone Camp, an adult condor was seen circling just above the Chaparral atop a ridge that was off to our left about one quarter mile away and about 300 feet above our elevation. Fog was rising from the lower valley and forming clouds in the area where this condor circled. At times it would disappear into these clouds as it circled upward. At 11:02 A.M., another condor joined this first bird seeming to come up over the ridge from the west. Both condor circled until 11:05 when they both went into a flex glide and hurriedly flew out to the Northeast. These two condor had gained considerable altitude in the short time that they circled. At 11:12 A.M. after we had proceeded down the trail a short distance an immature condor was observed circling over the same area where the two adult condor were formerly seen. This young condor displayed the characteristics of a 2nd year bird. Some mottled white under the wings, a lack of the definite white wing bar on the upper part of the wings and the dark head with dull ~~black~~ brown upper plumage. A young condor has some —

Condor

Condor adults

Condor

Imm. Condor



California Condor

Eben McMillan

19 October 1963

characteristic that makes it appear quite different in flight than an adult bird. Just what this characteristic is I cannot define although it is very noticeable when both adults and young are flying together. This young condor circled briefly before disappearing into a fog cloud, out of which it did not emerge, so that we could find out which ^{direction} it left the area. In that this bird was about as far behind the adults as was the young bird that left after all the other condors had gone from the canyon behind the Furnsworth home south of Glenville, when Ian and I were observing condor there, it would tend to make me think this young bird knew what direction the adults were leaving and it would follow the same ^{route} ~~route~~.

The Santa Paula river passes through a very narrow defile of rock about one half mile below where we saw these condors. About one quarter mile up river from this defile and on the East face of the canyon wall just above the water is a bold face about three hundred feet high of sandstone on the face of which at three different places ~~just~~ splotches of white bird excrement could be seen. This is near the old Carden Nest site. The excrement appears to be in places where condor could roost. From the looks of the tetra in it appears these condor left ^{their} ~~the~~ roosts a few minutes before we saw them, and flying ~~down~~ down canyon, a bit, and then crossing to the West side of the canyon, could fly along an upslope that continued on up the mountainside and came out on the ridge where we saw them circling. We could make out no sign of a nest-site.

Continuing on down the trail we came to a campsite —



Santa Paula
River
Camp

California Condor

Eben McMillan

19 October 1963

On the East side of Santa Paula River known as Cross Camp the name coming, probably, from the fact that the trail crosses the river here. Here we found a young lad camped who had come in with his back-pack early this morning. He had heard that the fire closure, that has restricted camping in this area throughout the summer, except for the two weekends during deer season, when fires were given as a reason for temporary relaxation of this restriction were now permanently lifted. He was awaiting the arrival of several pals who were to follow him in later in the day. This young fellows name was Steve Nichols. He lives in Santa Paula with his parents, his father being the postmaster there. Steve told us that he had been into this camp earlier during the summer months. He stated that in former times, he and his pals used to go to ^{LION} ~~the~~ Camp on the upper Sespe, to camp, but when the forest Service put in a road to that camp so many cars and people came that the dust was ankle deep around the camp, so they never go back. He said he had never seen a condor but that one is supposed to be able to see them from a camp on Piru Creek, above Piru Lake. He said that if anyone is caught shooting a condor it would go tough with him. Steve told us about the wildlife refuge in the Sespe and Hopper Canyon drainages that is placed aside just for condor preservation. He appeared to be proud of the fact that condors were being protected.

Hiking on down river from Cross Camp we came to Big Cone Campground. This area appears to have been developed for large scale use by the forest service for public needs. No fresh signs of camps were in evidence here, but signs of -

ough to be caught
hunting condors -



California Condor

Eben McMillan

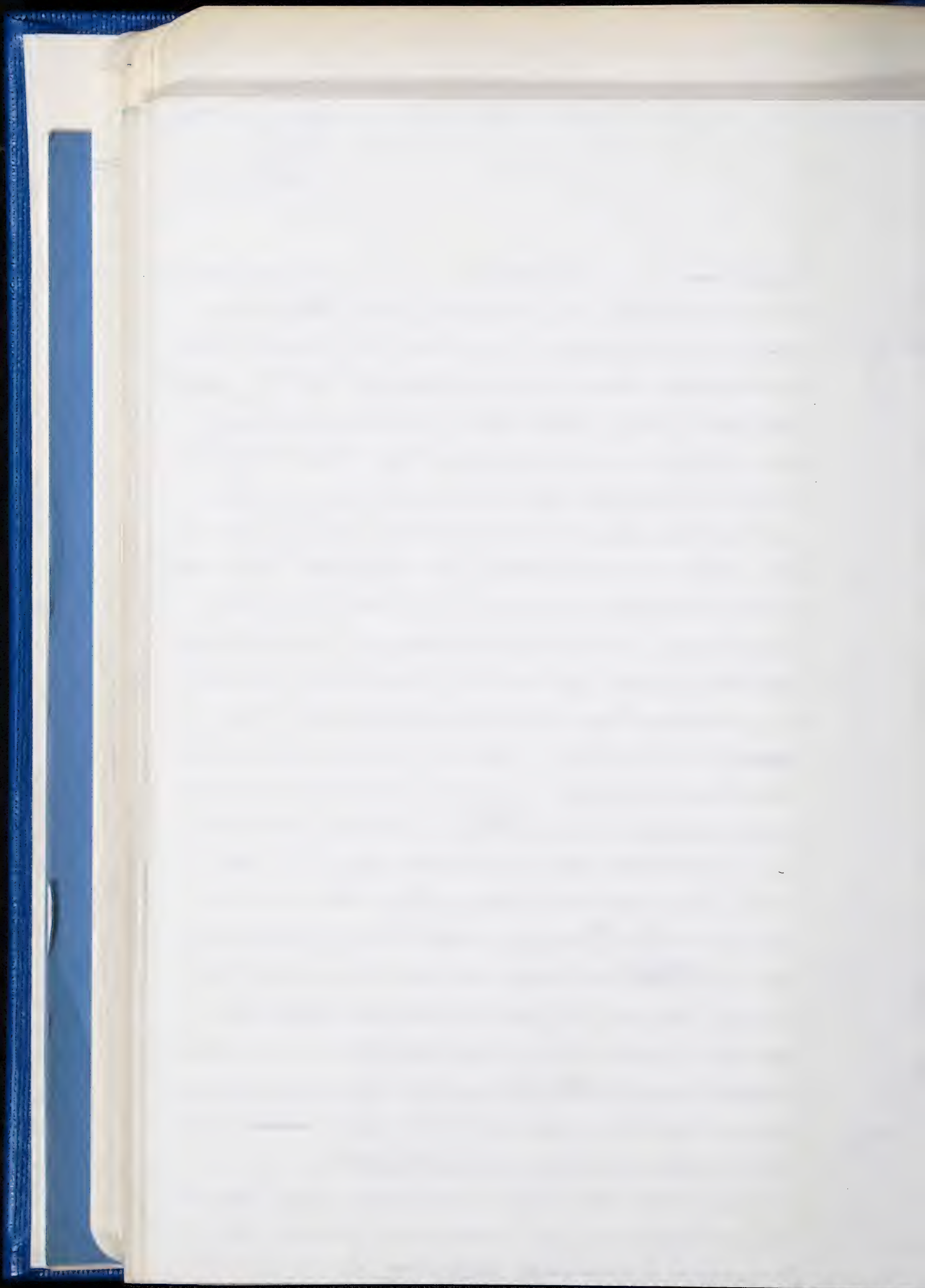
19 October 1963

heavy usage in the past was in evidence. Of the ~~four~~ ^{four} Camp-
 stoves in this Campground all but one had their chimneys fiddled
 with bullet holes. The door to a newly constructed toilet house of
 wood with a plastic Corrugated roof had been torn from its
 hinges and carried a distance away where it appeared it was
 used as a target. Bullet holes splintered the wood of this door
 and tore large pieces of its framing away. The plastic roof of
 this Toilet had numerous bullet holes through ~~it~~ it. Planks that
 had been bolted to the Camp tables as seats had been
 chopped away and used for kindling. A sign designating
 trail direction that stood near this Camp had been chopped
 to the ground for kindling. A large Oak, within this Camp,
~~which~~ had scars of bullets having been shot into its trunk.
 Where Cross Camp Campground and Last Chance Campground lacked the
 facilities that could be defaced, ~~they~~ ^{they} nevertheless, were objects of
 general disrespect by the Public, for at Cross Camp cans, soiled
 overalls, a large Canvas that had been used as a ~~the~~ ground cloth,
 and splinters of glass ~~covering~~ ^{supported} the nearby rocks as evidence of
 their having ~~been~~ ^{supported} glass objects that were used as targets by
 people with firearms. It is very apparent that wherever the
 Forest Service personell do not come periodically to clean up behind
 the public who use these ~~areas~~ ^{Areas}, for camping, and picnicing, they soon
 become a slum. What is important, is that Condor ~~nest~~ roost
 within one mile of Cross and Big Cone Campgrounds.

Hiking on down Towards Santa Paula we met with signs that
 evidenced someone had been up the canyon for a mile above the
 Ferndale ranch in a motorvehicle and had torn off all the paper—

shooting

more shooting



Santa Paula
Camp

california condor.

Eben McMillan

19 October 1961

cardboard signs that had been tacked up during the summer, designating this drainage as a closed area. It must have been a forest service vehicle but we wondered why the person, or persons, who tore the cardboard signs off the boards had left the fragments of the signs lying about on the ground. Perhaps this spirit of disrespect has permeated to the forest service personell itself?

about one quarter mile above the Ferndale Ranch we ^{met} ~~met~~ two boys that were from Santa Paula and were hunting reptiles. They were in the process of overturning all the large stones they could move and searching for reptiles or amphibians underneath them.

As we passed the Ferndale Ranch we met two men and six or seven boys with light packs on their backs that were heading for Big Cone Camp. When asked if they had gotten permission to go up the Santa Paula river one of the fellows said he had called the Forest Service in Ojai about three weeks ago and had been given permission to go to Big Cone Campground with his group of boy Scouts. He assumed the permission he was granted at that time, still continues. The man of this group, that said he was the scoutmaster, told us that the Forest Service is very lenient with him in giving permission to go into the forest to camp. I am mentioned to this scout leader that he should look at the damage done to the facilities at Big Cone Campground when they arrive. The man seemed little interested in discussing this subject and only mentioned something about those damned hunters.

we met Greg in my car at the Ferndale Ranch entrance.

Shirley

Montana

california condor

Eben Mcmillan

22 October 1963

It was clear, calm, and mild as I drove to La Panza area via the Carrisa plains. At the John Bowman residence, that is located about four miles southwest of La Panza Ranch headquarters, I was told by Mrs. Ione Bowman that she had seen several Condor come and water at the earth dam that is situated about one hundred yards east of her house. This was sometime during the summer months. She could not remember just when or just how many Condor there were, but she thought about three or four. They came to the reservoir on two consecutive days.

Mrs. Ione Bowman does not allow any shooting in the vicinity of her home. She thinks deer and other wild species come to the ^{reservoir} ~~reservoir~~, near her home, during the hunting seasons, as a defensive means to get away from hunters. Mrs. Bowman thinks wild creatures recognize situations where they will not be molested, quite readily. Deer come to her reservoir, to drink, with no apparent fear, during the hunting season.

I met ^{Budd} ~~Budd~~ Zimmermann and Newt, both cowboys for Jake Martins, at the Cow Camp on San Juan River about eight miles up river from the La Panza Ranch headquarters. Neither of these men had seen Condor lately. Budd Zimmermann saw three Condor in mid-summer that he had reported to Jan. Newt had seen two Condor about the last of June, or in July, near the Marianos Ranch, where he lives, that is located about five miles northeast of Simmler. This is in the Tumbler range.

Both Jenks Kan Matre and his wife, who live south of Soda Lake about ten miles, on the Carrisa plains and who are both old settlers of eastern San Luis Obispo County, told me that they-

Condor
reservoir

shooting

Condor

History

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

22 October 1963

had not seen condor since 1957, when they saw two condor near the windmill, on the San Juan ranch, that stands to the right of highway 178, about two miles northwest of the La Panza bridge, on the San Juan river. In years before 1950 the Van Matre's saw condor on the east side of the Carissa plains quite often. About 1946, a dead condor was found, on property owned by them, that is located about five miles east of the south end of Soda Lake, Carissa plains. Mrs. Van Matre saw her first condor in the Little Santa Maria valley five miles west of McKittrick, Kern County California about 1918. There were several condor here at that time. About 1953 the Van Matre's saw 23 condor come and feed on a dead horse that had died on their property on the northwest end of the Carissa plains and near the scarp that drops off to the San Juan river.

Status

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jenks Van Matre thinks condor are much more scarce than was the case twenty years ago. They also think buzzards are becoming scarce. Both of these people think people with guns who shoot everything that moves and with no thought of values other than to destroy, are responsible for the disappearance of most wildlife. They have noticed a scarcity of sandhill cranes in the last two years.

Shooting

Condor

Dead Condor -

History

Condor -

california Condor

Eben McMillan

24 October 1963

It was mild, clear, and calm as I crossed the valley from Cholame to Famosa. Grass that has sprouted as a ^{result} of the recent rains, of last week, now colors the hills both in the Temblors and the foothills to the east of Famosa. No sheep were found on the range east of Famosa, they having been moved onto alfalfa fields in the valley to stay through lambing time.

5 Eagles
Going East out of Bakersfield, on highway 466, on the East side of Caliente Wash, I saw five Golden Eagles hunting low over a farming field that had grown up to Russian Thistle. Only one of these birds could be identified as ~~an~~ an immature. One of ~~the~~ adults called sporadically, and another adult of this group, was seen to power upwards and then dive with wings folded, several times. I have seen this activity at all times of the year before. I doubt that it is all due to nuptial display. As these eagles coursed over these fields I could see them looking intently into the Russian Thistle bushes.

Condor?
 not certain
Jack Jensen told me he had seen no Condor in the Arvin-White Wolf area since my last visit there. He did say that the boy who works with him reported seeing one Condor feeding on the carcass of a dead calf east of Arvin in the foothills about two weeks ago.

Condor?
 not certain
An attendant at the Union Oil Company service station in Arvin said he had heard of several Condor being seen in the foothills to the East of Arvin about two weeks ago. He had never seen a Condor to know one.

One mile northwest of Old Tejon headquarters on the road

California condor

Eben McMillan

24 October 1963

Leading into Tejon Canyon, from Arvin, I met a Mr. Davis who works for an Oil Company that has wells in this area. Mr. Davis told me of seeing Condor in past years, but none lately.

W.E. Nichols, a deer hunting patrolman for Tejon Ranch, told me he saw two Condor circling at the mouth of Pastorita Canyon on the Tejon Ranch on October 6, 1963.

Jose Gomez, a Mexican cowboy on Tejon, saw six Condor about ten o'clock in the morning about one mile south of Old Tejon Ranch headquarters on October 22, 1963.

No word of Condor at Tejon Ranch Office in Lebec.

I met Henry Melendy at the Union Oil Company Service Station at Grapevine, at the north outlet of Grapevine Creek. He had seen no Condor. Mr. Melendy said that Deer hunters were still giving him problems. He has found the carcasses of dead spike bucks that had been shot, as well as some doe deer, that had been wounded, or shot outright and left to lay. He thinks most of this irresponsible shooting is being done by unauthorized hunters who slip into the ranch property from the desert side. Henry was at this hour, 5:15 P.M., just going out to attempt to catch the son of Jose Mendoburo, a leaseholder of grazing rights, on Tejon Ranch. Young Mendoburo will not hunt on his father's lease, but slips into the section reserved for owners and stockholders.

~~John Grigsby~~ I drove to Rose Station, an old stage station that is now represented only by cattle corrals and a hay barn and is located about two miles east of Grapevine Station on highway 99, where I met the buckaroos of Tejon Ranch as they came in to these corrals. None of the cowboys had -

california condor Eben Mcmillan

24 October 1963

seen Condor since I was here last. Gib McKinsey thought I might see Condor if I watched near the mouth of Tunis Canyon. Two of the Cowboys with whom I chatted, before the others arrived, thought there should be Condor around during the last month if they liked dead calves, for they said great numbers of calves had been aborted by Tejon Ranch Cows, and heifers, during the last month. This is the first direct evidence I have gained that abortion was prevalent in the Tejon herd this fall, for there seems to be a reluctance on the part of all people associated with this problem, to admit of its seriousness. These two cowboys said they saw no reason to hide the fact that abortion was taking a toll of ranch calves before birth, and that they thought it should be discussed, and made public information, in that there is nothing to be gained by keeping it secret.

Today the cowboys had been working the purebred herd of cows that is kept as a means of furnishing their own breeding range bulls. This purebred herd is kept out on the flats to the north and east of Grapevine, where numerous small fields make it possible to keep records of the breeding history of each sire, and each cow. There seems to be evidence supporting a claim that these purebred animals have developed genetic ^{traits} ~~traits~~ that do not particularly help them to survive under adverse conditions. This, in conjunction with a steadily depleting range, will probably always assure Condor food, providing the same practices are continued. The Tejon ranch ^{is} now commencing to use Mexican and Southern States cattle in order to feed off the back country, to which the better bred natives, will not range out and utilize.

ood —

problems
of food for
Condor

cont.

observed Condor since I had been here on Tejon Ranch before.

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Tejon Ranch

California Condor

Eben McMillan

24 October 1963

I returned to the Grapewine station on highway 99 where I called Walter ^{Slayton} ~~Slayton~~ of the San Emigdio Ranch, and made plans to enter that property to check for Condor next Monday morning. Mr. Slayton said he, nor any of the ranch personnel, had seen Condor for some time. He doubted that any were using that range now.

Condor -

I met John Grigsby, of Tejon Ranch, at this Grapewine station. He reported seeing Eight Condor near the 6500 foot elevation on the east side of Pastoria Canyon about 10:00 A.M. on 2 October 1963. Two of these Condor were perched in trees and the others were on the ground when Mr. Grigsby came upon them. As they took off, he thought they all showed yellow heads. While the Eight Condor circled the area before leaving they wheeled close ~~enough~~ enough to Mr. Grigsby that he could have easily shot them with a rifle; and even while they were perched in the trees, and on the ground, they gave ample time before flying that several shots could have been fired at them. Mr. Grigsby seems very interested in Condor and is one with whom one could work to bring about a protective attitude among all Tejon Ranch personnel, towards Condor.

vulnerable

Condor -

One of the attendants at the Union Oil Company service station at Grapewine overheard Mr. Grigsby and I discussing Condor. He said that he and several other employees of the station had observed two Condor circling high above this station about 4:20 p.m. on 20 October 1963.

It was well past dark when I arrived at the deer hunter checking camp of Mr. Nord that is located at the beginning of the foothills at the mouth of Tunis Creek. Two hunters were -



California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

24 October 1963

at this camp checking out a deer they had shot, this evening, in the mountains, at the headwaters of Tunis Creek. One of these two hunters, upon learning that I was interested in knowing if they had seen any condor while hunting, told me he had not seen condor this year but that about three years ago he and another fellow were hunting in this same area and while driving about in a Jeep, spotted a condor feeding on the carcass of a deer. After watching this condor feed for some minutes, within a range that would have made shooting the bird very easy, these two fellows dashed at the condor in their Jeep in an effort to catch it. He said they got very close to the condor before it gained sufficient altitude to get well above them. The man said he did not know what they would have done had they caught the condor. Just wanted to catch it and see what it was like, ~~the~~ ^{he} said.

I put my bed down near the road that leads ~~from~~ from Tunis Creek flood plain to Corvalls at mouth of Pastoria Canyon. The valley floor here was covered with Russian Thistle. Short eared Owls called as I went to sleep.

Condor -

vulnerable

? - 4

Condor -

California Condor Eben McMillan 25 October 1963

A Coyote was heard culling in the distance about 4:00 A.M. At daylight several short-eared-owls yapped nearby. I squeaked and immediately three of these owls hovered close over my bed. I repeated the squeek again after the owls had left and the three owls immediately returned and hovered above me, one coming so close that I could have reached up and grabbed it. The hearing of this species must be very highly developed. These owls would be attracted to my squeeks until the daylight progressed whereby horned larks, meadow larks, and savannah sparrows commenced to sing. At this point the owls returned no more to my squeeks.

A ferruginous roughlegged hawk came and perched on a post about 300 feet from my camp at sunrise. Two Golden Eagle came from the mountains to the east and soared low over the fields heading north west at 7:40 A.M. Henry Melendy came by at 7:50 A.M. and had coffee with me. He had served notice on W.E. Nichols, one of his patrolman, ~~this~~ this morning, that his services would no longer be needed. Mr. Melendy felt that Mr. Nichols was spending too much time taking his friends hunting to be of much use to the patrolling cause. Henry thought that most hunters on the Tejon were, as a class, much more responsible ^{than} ~~the~~ the general public would be; nevertheless, even so, he would hesitate to ^a ~~guarantee~~ ~~guarantee~~ that a condor would be safe within their range of shooting.

at 10:05 A.M. while driving from the old Tejon Ranch buildings to the foothills southwest about two miles I saw nine condor rise up out of a shallow valley and circle for some time before scattering. It was not easy to get a count on this group of birds as —

Shooting

9 Condor

California Condor Eben McMillan 25 October 1963
they did not gather into one compact group ~~during~~ during the 45 minutes that I watched them, before they left in the direction of Grapevine Canyon. Nevertheless, on three separate instances, I was able to confirm the number of birds in this group to be nine. At no time was it possible to age these birds, although at least four ^{of} them were ~~known~~ identified to be adults.

After circling up out of the above mentioned shallow valley, and gaining considerable altitude, two of the Condor broke away from the group and sailed west for about two miles where they halted their soaring flight and commenced circling above farming activities below. Six Condor were still circling near the mouth of El Paso Creek, where it breaks out of the mountains. One Condor had disappeared. After about twenty minutes of circling. Five of these six Condor soared westward and joined the two that were still circling above the farming activities. At 10:40 A.M. another Condor came from the east and joined these Condor making a total of eight birds that were circling west of me, about two miles, at 10:45 A.M.

At 10:45 all eight of the above Condor left in a direct line for the mouth of Grapevine Creek and soon passed from sight into the murky smog that limited visibility to about two miles, with the unaided eye, at lower levels. This visibility was probably doubled with the aid of a twenty power scope. Looking upward towards the mountain tops, visibility was about ten miles with the unaided eye.

As was the case with Condors under observation in flight, at Glenville, on 10 September ~~1963~~ 1963, at least six of

Notes

California condor

Eben McMillan

25 October 1963

Paired birds

the condor seen this morning traveled in pairs. This gives rise to thought that these are mated pairs that although gathering together to feed, and roost, nevertheless maintain an association together most of the time.

Shooting

Two rifle shots were heard high up on mountain to the north of Tunis Canyon at 10:58 A.M.

Condor -

At 11:00 A.M. Two condor were seen circling high about one-half mile north of where Tunis Canyon breaks out of the main mountain mass. They soon drifted out of sight into the smog.

An immature Golden Eagle was seen throughout the morning circling about the Tunis and El Paso creek areas.

At 1:50 p.m. two Golden Eagles came out of Pustoria Canyon and circled for several minutes above where I was at about the 3000 foot level on the southwest side of Pustoria Canyon near where the main range fronts out over the valley below.

a pair of Red Tailed Hawks harassed these two Eagles while they circled.

Two groups of men were working in the area west of the mouth of Pustoria Canyon. They were constructing cattle guards for the new road that will go in here shortly coming from Grapevine Station, on highway 99, to the site in Pustoria Canyon where tunnel construction will soon commence for Feather River water enroute to Los Angeles.

From Bakersfield I called both Dillard Pittman who attends cattle for Mendocino on west slope of Breckenridge Mountain and Andy Charlton who does the same for Ken Mebane on the southwest foothills of Breckenridge Mountain. Neither of these fellows had seen Condor this fall.

Priest Valley

California Condor.

Eben McMillan

26 October 1963

I talked with several men who gathered at the Priest Valley schoolhouse to see my picture "The Shandon Hills". This evening, although all had heard of Condor and some had seen Condor in years past, none had seen Condor, except George Newsom, for at least twenty years. A Mr. Palmer, who had lived out his fifty four years, all in the Priest Valley area, had heard of Condor being seen in this area in the early days, by his father, who had settled in this area long years ago. But he had never seen one himself. Mrs. Lee, who with Mr. Lee had lived in the Priest Valley area for more than fifty years, had never seen Condor. From this information, I doubt that Condor have used the Priest Valley area as a feeding ground for many years.

NO
Condor

Notice

Pacific Standard time goes into use with this page. e.m.

P-402

california condor

Eben McMillan

28 October 1963

A Fall of smog engulfed the San Joaquin valley to an elevation enabling it to flow, and ebb, from the valley to the Los Angeles basin, and Antelope valley of southeastern Kern county, through Pasadena Canyon. I arrived at the San Emigdio ranch at 8:10 A.M. After obtaining a key for gate locks, on this ranch, I drove west from the ranch buildings. An adult Golden Eagle flew from a perch on the top of an electric power pole, and flew one quarter mile south and alighted on another power pole, that stands less than two hundred yards from the nearest house of the headquarters buildings of San Emigdio Ranch. This instance points up that promiscuous shooting must not be of common occurrence on this property.

Green grass has a very good start here on the San Emigdio Ranch. Even out on the flats, of the valley floor, it has a fine start, and higher up in mountains it is doubtful that the new grass has looked this good for many years. A good ground cover of old grasses is helping hold the moisture in the ground from the last rains, Walter ^{slaytor} ~~slaytor~~, San Emigdio ^{foreman} ~~foreman~~, told me that more than two and one half inches of rain had already fallen this fall. This situation, should rains continue, ^{good grass,} ~~the new grass~~ ~~could~~, could minimize condor food in this area. The Tejon Ranch feed situation is very similar to that of San Emigdio.

At the mouth of Santiago Canyon, on the western edge of San Emigdio lands, I heard a Golden Eagle calling from the foothills but could not see it. Several Red-Tailed Hawks, and as many Marsh Hawks, were seen along the edge of the foothills.

Returning to Ranch headquarters at 9:30 A.M. I drove up ridge that separates San Emigdio Canyon from the Platte Canyon watershed. The north slope of the general mountain mass that confronts the San Joaquin valley, ~~located~~ on the south, and is represented to a great degree by San Emigdio Ranch holdings, is one of the largest areas of steep, rich, grassland in California. Most of these

San Emigdio
Pleito Creek

California Condor:

Eben McMillan

28 October 1963

Smooth molded, but steep hills, are overlaid with deep, dark, rich, soil that shows ~~very~~ little signs of erosion, and most of this seeming to have occurred since roads have been pushed into this area. A ground cover of tall, dry, grasses, is protecting this area now from water erosion. Within this cover, great numbers of animals must abide, for predatory birds could be seen all along the route I traveled. Golden Eagle, Red Tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and Burrowing Owls, as well as fantastic numbers of meadowlark, Larksparrow and some vesper sparrow. One flock of approximately five hundred pine siskin fed on the tall stalks of a ~~stall~~ *Stephanomeria* (sp.) that grows profusely on the north slopes of these ranges. I saw ~~several~~ coyote scats on several occasions, but was not able to observe any mammal predators here, even though a good population of California Ground squirrels inhabit this area. ~~at~~ Wherever the ground cover is broken, the burrows of kangaroo Rats are to be seen. It was quite warm at midday even at the four to five thousand foot elevation, where I had my lunch.

Returning to the foothills, and the flat country, at 3:00 p.m. I then drove up the ridge between Pleito Creek and Salt Creek to the east of Ranch headquarters. An oiled road traverses this ridge up from the bottom to where an oil field is in operation about two miles from the foot of the grade. Many graded dirt roads traverse this ridge that is less steep in contour than the San Emigdio-Pleito Creek ridge, and the soil here is as rich and dark ~~as~~ as any I have seen in upland California areas. Wild animals were well represented here. I was surprised to see so many Horned Larks here where tall grasses cover the ground in most places. Smog limited visibility here throughout the day to three to four miles distance at the lower elevations and dimmed distance scenes even at 5500 feet.

California Condor

Ebon McMillan

28 October 1963

At five o'clock in the evening I returned to the valley floor and drove to Mettler station on highway 99 where I phoned Lebec in the hopes of contacting a Mr. Cory ^{ellingsbo} who had pastured cattle on Frazier Mountain during the deer hunting season. But I was unable to contact him. Returning

to San Emigdio Ranch, I visited with the Walter ^{Slaton} ~~stator~~ family until nine o'clock p.m. Mr. ^{Slaton} ~~stator~~ is a young fellow who, with his wife and three young children, came to the San Emigdio Ranch in the capacity of foreman. ~~foreman~~ in the late spring of ~~1961~~ 1962. Both he and Mrs. ^{Slaton} ~~stator~~ are

interested in the outdoors. Mr. Slaton saw Condor last year but has not seen any in 1963. Mrs. ^{Slaton} ~~stator~~ has never seen a Condor. Walter Slaton told me of seeing about five hundred white pelicans pass over salt creek where he was working, about ten days ago, heading towards the Mount Pinus Complex; but they soon returned, circling, and drifted out towards the Tojon Ranch area. This was in the evening. Mrs. ~~stator~~

^{Slaton also} ~~stator~~ told me about a squirrel poisoning campaign that is now going on at San Emigdio Ranch, under the direction of the Kern County, agricultural Commissioner's office, which is closely allied with the California State Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Slaton was quite disturbed with this project as her children's pet dog had died, from what she felt, was surely the effects of this 1080 poison, last week; and their pet cat had died, from the same causes, she thought, today. She said that Twenty Seven blackbirds and starling had fallen dead from the ^{Eucalyptus} ~~acacia~~ trees that line the road leading into San Emigdio Ranch Headquarters, ~~and~~ during the last few days, and that seven or eight of them had been opened for examination by personnel of the agricultural Commissioner's office. But she had not heard of their findings.

^{Slaton} Mrs. ~~stator~~ was concerned over the possibility of her children picking some of this poison up and getting it into their systems.

poisoning

poisoning had been done only
3000 + 400000 pills -



San Emigdio

California Condor

Eben McMillan

28 October 1963

Walter ^{Slaton} ~~Slater~~ said that no hunting was allowed on the San Emigdio Ranch property except by officials of the company. Orders have been issued to all oil companies who operate inside San Emigdio Ranch lands that no firearms are to be carried by any representatives or employees of these firms. In answer to my query as to how the road signs had gotten defaced with bullet holes, on the road leading to the Oil Fields on ridge between Pleito Creek and Salt Creek that I had observed earlier in the evening, Mr. Slater informed me that he was sure this happened some years ago when the County of Kern, and The California Division of Fish and Game, had some agreement with the Kern County Land Company, whereby they were managing hunting on the San Emigdio Ranch properties. He does not think such has occurred since the Company returned the hunting privileges to former conditions before the Kern County and California Division of Fish and Game had been implicated.

At 2:50 P.m. 49 Turkey Buzzards were noted circling above Eagle Rest Peak that stands at head of Pleito Creek drainage. They circled to a moderate height and then strung out in a line and headed for Mt. Pinastola southwest. At 3:03 this flock of buzzards, after circling above East slope of Antimony Peak, pumped and sailed towards the west about a mile where they circled again for several minutes. Several of the flock now sailed back above Eagles ^{Rest} ~~Rest~~ Peak, soon to be followed by most of the others. At 3:20 when I left the area five or six Buzzards were still circling about Eagles Rest Peak about three hundred feet down from its crest on the East slope, while many of the Buzzards had alighted in trees and rocks near this area.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

29 October 1963

I was up at daylight ~~from~~ from my bed where I had pitched it last night in a grassy flat about one half mile above the Humble Oil Company Oil Operation, on ridge between Plato and Salt Creeks, on San Emigdio Ranch. Burrowing Owls were heard whistling at daybreak, and, immediately following, meadowlarks joined, and made the hills ring with their clear whistles. A bit after sunrise I visited a fellow who tends the oil wells for Humble Oil Co. near where I camped. He informed me that employees were not allowed to carry firearms onto the San Emigdio Ranch property and that he abides by these rules. This fellow also told me that game is very plentiful now but that during the time the County of Kern and the California Division of Fish and Game people were managing the hunting on this ranch, ~~the~~ game became very scarce and ~~there~~ few wild creatures were seen about. This man also told me that the producing wells in this field were becoming less productive with each year that passes. He did not think it would last many more years.

Driving on up this ridge, from where I camped, I met Jake Barnes, the person who attends to livestock water on San Emigdio Ranch. He had never seen a Condor to know it even though he has been on this ranch since 1957. In his spare time he now is helping with the squirrel poisoning campaign on this Ranch. He told me that several of the dead animals, that expired about the headquarters, had been cut open and that yellow gloved grain was found in only one of them. He had no explanation of why the other creatures had died. Mr. Barnes pumps water all year around for San Emigdio Ranch.

Driving on up the ridge I reached the end of navigation on a point to the west of Neason's Flat that is located in the bottom, and near the -

Poisoning -



P.407

California Condor

Eben D. Schillan

29 October 1963

headwaters of Pleito Creek. Salt Creek dropped off sharply to my East. 100 + White Throated Swift were circling in a group above this point. At times they would move in my direction coming so close as they dashed by at high speed that the rush of air from their wings made a hissing sound. They screamed continually. At other times this flock of Swifts would drift out over the Salt Creek drainage to the South East and sometimes circle over a point to my Northeast about one quarter mile from where I was, but they never ventured westward out over Neason's Flats or to the Northwest over Pleito Creek. At times they circled, as a group, quite high above the area.

Condor →

At 10:49 AM. an adult Condor was seen circling up out of the Neason's Flat area. Soon after I saw this bird it moved my direction, gaining elevation as it came, soaring, and not circling, with wings set for elevating and not for a flex glide. Were it not for the palmar effects of the primary feathers of Condor when advancing towards one in this style of flight they could be mistaken for a ~~Golden Eagle~~ Golden Eagle. But the ~~bristly~~ ^{bristly} primary feathers, and the stable glide pattern will allow for its identification, providing one can hold the bird in view for a few moments. This bird came on and as it passed to my South, about three hundred Yards, and as far above my plane, it experienced severe updrafts of air that were welling up from the Canyons below and causing this Condor to maneuver its wings to remain stable. Again as I have noted before, one gained the impression that this bird was passing through air currents not unlike ~~unlike~~ ocean waves. The forward wing, that is forward to the line of the advancing wave of air, would rise and then dip to let this wave pass under without throwing the bird off keel. One could see this wave pass under this Condor and out the other side by the way its wings dipped and raised to -

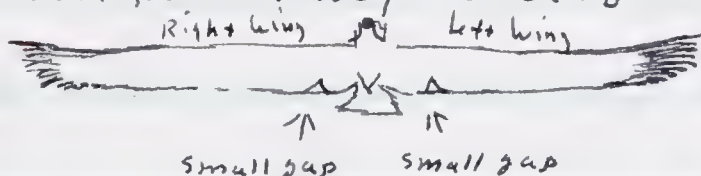
Flight Pattern

California Condor.

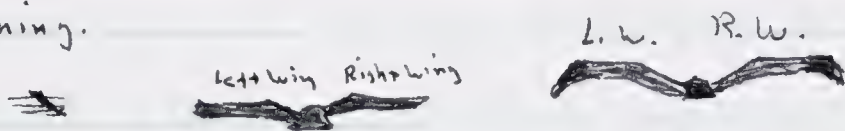
Eben McMillan

29 October 1963

release the air current, Not unlike the movements of a sail in the wind. At no time did I see this Condor flap its wings. After passing my location and getting through this area of unstable air, this Condor dropped into a flex glide and coasted down a gentle plane in a easterly direction, towards the Tejon flats. At 10:55 Am. this Condor passed from sight into the smog about three miles to the Eastward. It had covered this distance and probably the half mile to the west where I first saw it in a matter of six minutes. This Condor had slight feather gaps in each wing not far out from the body. see diagram below.



A Condor flying in a flex glide, and ^{below} ~~below~~ the level of an Observer, and coasting downhill a bit, such was the bird described above, offers an unusual point of view. The following diagram should give some idea as to what this bird looked like, in flight, as it flew away from me this morning.



I saw three Red Tailed Hawks circling to my west, from this same point, at 11:00 Am. They were screaming - one was towering and diving.

I left this point of observation at 11:10 Am. descended the ridge and came out on the valley floor near the mouth of salt creek.

As I entered the Tejon Ranch road, going off Highway 99, I met two Tejon Ranch Cowboys who told me of seeing 24 Condor circling above where they and several other buckaroos were having their lunch, Gibbickensie being with them, at a point on the Tejon Flats, about one mile north of the cattle,

24 Condor -

Tijon Ranch

California Condor

Eben McMillan

29 October 1963

condor
27 October

corral's that stand out from the mouth of Pastorina Canyon on Tijon Ranch Property, between twelve and one O'clock on Saturday, October 26, 1963. These Buckaroos said they were all counting this flock of condor after Gib McKenzie commenced to count them. One of the cowboys I was talking with, said that people must have thought all the cowboys to be out of their minds, going to all that trouble to count a flock of big birds.

I drove to the area where the condor were seen last Saturday, but saw no sign of them today. Stopping at the Tijon Oil lease of Standard Oil Company Joe Brown told me of seeing nine condor on October 20, 1963 at 12:00 Noon that came down from the eastward and circled for sometime above a herd of heifers that graze in a pasture about one-half mile to the west of his camp. After circling his camp for a while these condor returned eastward towards Tunis Canyon. On the day following, Monday October 14, Mr. Brown saw two condor at 9:30 A.M. come from the eastward and pass over his shack, sail on down and circle the herd of cattle one half mile to the west and then fly back towards the mouth of Tunis Canyon on Tijon Ranch.

condor

At the hunter check station near Old Tijon Ranch Headquarters I met Jack Abercrombe of Gorman who lives on the Old Liebre Ranch in antelope valley and cares for the cattle of Newhall Land and Cattle Co. who lease the desert side of Tijon Ranch on the southwest end. He said he had seen only one condor since we had talked to him in the early part of summer. Mr. Abercrombe saw this condor circling about 1000 feet above where old Ridge Route turns off highway 138, near Quail Lake, in the southwest end of antelope

Tejon Ranch

California Condor

Eben McMillan

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valley. Mrs. Abercrombe was with him at the time and he mentioned to her that we would be interested in ~~hearing~~ hearing of this observation.

Robert Montez, an Indian cowboy of Tejon Ranch told me he knew condor when he saw them, but that he had not seen any for two or three years.

I talked with Gib McKensie and George Noblia who were building a pipe ladder at the shop at Tejon Headquarters. Gib told me that the 24 Condor that the Cowboys and he saw on October 26, 1963 had been feeding on a dead calf when the Cowboys rode up and disturbed them. At least six different Cowboys counted the Condor and all agreed that 24 was the correct number. While the counting was going on, the Condors circled in a group above the spot from whence they had just been feeding. After circling up to a great height they were lost track of and could not be followed as they left the area. Gib McKensie thinks these Condor will remain in the general area for a while now and be seen from time to time in this large group. He thinks they will roost in the tall pines, on the mountain top, east of Tejon Ranch buildings.

George Noblia told me he saw one Condor Yesterday. I did not get the particulars of this observation from him today due to his being rather busy with his work.

I arrived home at 5:00 p.m.

Ian and I drove to Porterville and on to the Tule River Indian Reservation in the evening. We camped for the night near the Lumber Mill of Shasta Lumber Company.

food ✓

condor?

Tule River
Tule River

California Condor

Eben McMillan

30 October 1963

Ian and I were up early and made our way to within one half mile of Redwood Corral near the headwaters of Bear Creek and within one quarter mile of where the Condor nested in the Redwood tree in 1950. although we were limited in our visibility by a fog that enshrouded the forest at this elevation we nevertheless spent more than three hours in this general area, a good deal of which was spent in searching the area at the base of the Redwood Nest tree, but we saw nothing that would lead to a conclusion that Condor had nested in this area this year.

In the afternoon we drove to the Indian settlement near the entrance to the reservation and Ian interviewed several of the Indian women about Condor. The Indian men were all working, I suppose. The general opinion was gathered from these people that Condor have not been seen for several years. We will return to this location for another look next spring.

A Mr. Ed Traylor who lives along the highway leading from the Tule River Indian Reservation into Porterville, told us that although he has been in this general area for thirty years, on one occasion only, did he ever see Condor, and that was about twenty years ago (1943) when he came upon six Condor about two miles above the Terra Bella Road Camp on the Deer Creek Road. He has seen no Condor since even though he works the fields of his farm and thinks he would see any large birds that might happen by.

We were home at 4:00 P.M.

6 Condor
1943

California Condor Eben McMillan

4 November 1963

I drove to Lebec by 9:30 A.M., via Taft and Maricopa. A cloud cover came and went during the morning, with an East and North wind, but it remained warm. No more reports of Condor from the Tejon Personnel, at the Lebec Office.

From Lebec I went to Tejon Flats, via the Ostrich farm. At 10:30 A.M. a Golden Eagle was seen circling above the Ostrich farm. As it commenced to leave the area towards the Northwest it made two rises and dives in flight that are supposed to be associated with nuptial behavior.

At 12:10 P.M. one Condor was seen circling, at a distance, above the open hill that fronts the North side of the mouth of Tunis Canyon where it emerges from the mountain mass. This bird circled for two minutes, gaining altitude, and drifting eastward. At 12:13 P.M. it went into a glide and passed from sight, behind the mountain North of Tunis Canyon, heading in an easterly direction, but appearing to be losing altitude as if it were not on a long sustained flight. At the distance from which I was observing this Condor it was difficult to get any idea of age but at no time in its circling was I able to make out any amount of white coloration under the wings. From its actions I would suspect it was a young bird.

At 1:05 P.M. an immature Golden Eagle came from the south front of Tunis Canyon and circled overhead before drifting Northwest about two miles and then turning southwest. This bird appeared to have just eaten, from its protruding breast. The spots in this bird's wings were rather dim, but the tail showed much bright white.

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Joe Brown, who tends the Tejon oil field of Standard Oil Company, told me of seeing Seven Condor at 10:00 A.M. above the water tank on the ridge about one-half mile to the south of his shack. This would be about three miles west by southwest from the Old Tejon Ranch headquarters. Brown said that he and Ray Like, one of the Tejon Cowboys were riding south from his shack when they saw five Condor circling in the air above this tank about two hundred yards and two Condor sitting on the ground. He thought the two on the ground were probably feeding on the placenta of a calf birth. Like, who has been on Tejon for several years thought these birds to be buzzards. Joe Brown was struck with his not knowing the difference between Condor and buzzards, having spent so much time in the field, on Tejon Ranch. Brown did not notice which way these Condor left the area when dispersing.

A drove to Chuchupate Ranger Station at the Northwest base of Frazier Mountain at 3:45 P.M. Gary Plisco the district Ranger in charge was not in. Don Adams, Assistant Fire Control Officer at Chuchupate Station, at my request, dug into the files in his office and produced records of Condor sightings from Frazier Mountain and Thorn Point Lookouts as well as sightings of the General ~~Chuchupate~~ Chuchupate district. Some of these records went as far back as 1956. He said these records of Condor sightings pile up here at Chuchupate Ranger Station and that no one ever looks at them. One of the ladies in the front office told me that outside of a scout troop and their master who asked to see any records of Condor seen in recent months, no one else has ever inquired about Condor records.

California Condor EBBEN McMillan 4 November 1963

Don Adams said he thought more condor were seen during deer hunting season than is the case now. He said that records would be in from Thorn Point and Frazier Mountain soon for all records from those lookout stations are brought in to Chuchupato Ranger Station when these lookouts close for the winter. Mr. Adams said that the Lookout from Thorn Point had mentioned a condor coming and alighting near his lookout station not long ago. This bird was to have remained perched for some time before leaving the area.

From Chuchupato I drove to Gorman in Los Angeles County, on highway 99 and met a Mr. Cory Ellingbo who manages the ranch properties of Jack Malouf and Associates of 99 East San Jose Street, Burbank, California, who operate in the Gorman area, and who have a forest service permit to pasture cattle on Frazier Mountain, during the summer, and fall, months.

Cory Ellingbo told me that on July 20, 1963 much shooting went on in the Frazier Mountain area; this was two weeks before the deer hunting season had opened. On this date Mr. Ellingbo had a cow shot, with what he thought a high powered rifle, through the head, the bullet entering in the middle of the face mid-way between the nose and the eyes. The cow had died instantly. Nothing ever came to feed on this cow's carcass that lay until the maggots disposed of it on the west end of Frazier Mountain.

On August 10, 1963 a yearling Aberdeen Angus heifer was shot in the center of the left shoulder and fell in the middle of the Forest Service road that traverses East Frazier Mountain. A hunter who helped Mr. Ellingbo drag this animal away from the road was most upset that anyone, hunting, would be so

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careless as to shoot an ~~any~~ animal that is black in color, has no horns, and was gentle. This hunter told Mr. Ellingbo he thought this sort of irresponsibility would only tend to condemn all hunters as being unfit to be out in the hills. The cow that was shot on July 20th was also an Angus, was black, hornless, and gentle.

Cory Ellingbo said he used to go to the top of Frazier Mountain on the first several days of deer hunting season to watch his cattle there and to warn hunters about cattle being in the area; but he says he no longer goes to Frazier Mountain at the commencement of deer hunting season. Past experiences with bullets whizzing all about him when on this mountain has prompted him to wait until the first weekend of the deer hunting season is past before he goes to the top of this mountain to inspect his cattle. He told me that he had taken Forest Service ~~personnel~~ personnel to see the two animals shot last July and August as material witnesses to the event. He also showed me photographs he had taken of the two cattle killed on Frazier Mountain this fall and that he was preparing a bill which he intended to send to the Fish and Game Commission in Sacramento, California asking that they reimburse his company for the price of these two cattle in that he felt the Fish and Game Department are responsible for these hunters whom they license to hunt and inform them where to hunt without demanding that they acquaint themselves with the responsibility that ~~must~~ ^{must} go with anyone carrying a gun on public lands. He will send me a copy of this bill whenever he gets it ready for mailing and he also consented to sending -

California Condor Eben McMillan 4 November 1963
 Photo Prints of the two cow carcasses that were shot on Frazier Mountain.

Mr. Cory Ellingbo also told me that in 1962, during the deer hunting season, an angus yearling steer had been shot in the week about one mile from the road on East Frazier Mountain and that one of this animal's hind quarters had been skinned out and taken. Mr. Ellingbo also said that about two weeks before the close of deer season in 1962 a hunter had informed Jeff Calhoun, the Forest Service Lookout on Frazier Mountain that he had found a cow that had been shot about one-half mile off the road on East Frazier Mountain. Mr. Calhoun notified Cory Ellingbo, who investigating this incident found it to be a cow, angus, belonging to his employers, that had been shot through the stomach with a high powered rifle and killed. This cow would have given birth to a calf in about two weeks according to Mr. Ellingbo.

No condor have ever come to feed on any cattle that have died and been watched by Mr. Ellingbo. On Frazier Mountain, He did see, a few days prior to 1 October 1963 two condor feeding on the carcass of a dead spike deer on the west slope of the ridge that runs west from Frazier Mountain Lookout, and, just over the brow of this point. Mr. Ellingbo said he smelled the scent of this carcass, and thinking it to be a dead cow, rode in that direction only to ~~some~~ come upon these two condor, one at the carcass, and one in a pine tree nearby ~~that were~~. The one on the ground was at the carcass of the spike deer and only about 100 feet from him when he flushed it. Had he known of the whereabouts of these condor, and had possessed a gun while being of the frame of mind of most deer hunters, one, or both, of these condor would have fallen to his fire easily.

food →
 hunting deer

food →
 cow

condor feed
 dead cattle

food →

vulnerable



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Cory Ellingbo whose mailing address is Star Route, Box 67 Lancaster, California, told me that on the private land that he supervises in the area near Gorman, California, he is continually harassed by hunters who tear down NO Trespassing signs he erects and breaks the locks from gates which he locks to prevent entry into private lands that harbor field crops or livestock which he does not want disturbed. His neighbor on Pine Creek, a Mr. Bill Schmidt, had an Angus Bull shot dead last year and a hind quarter of this animal was skinned out and taken. Cory thinks most hunters are both ignorant of their acts and exceedingly irresponsible also. He doubts that they can be educated, but does feel that the Fish and Game Department only encourage further depredations and misuse of public property by ~~issuing~~ ^{issuing} these people a license to hunt without any demand of them that they conduct themselves properly.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lacy who live at Gold Hill enroute to Alamo Mountain from the highway 99 entrances, were at this cafe, in Gorman, for dinner. Mr. Ellingbo introduced me to them and informed me that Mr. Lacy was Fire Prevention Technician for the U.S. Forest Service and Patrolled the Alamo Mountain area during the hunting and fire seasons. I inquired of Mr. Lacy if he thought hunters in the Alamo Mountain area would shoot Condor should the opportunity present itself. He thought they would not. Mr. Lacy thinks that because Alamo Mountain is farther removed from the highway, that a better class of hunters frequents this area. He nevertheless thought it a poor idea for anyone to perch on a limb, dressed like a Condor, during deer hunting season.

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James Lacy, whose address is Box 59, Frazier Park, California, told me that within the last month condor forms had been circulated to his camp, and orders given him, that all condor sightings were to be recorded from now on until notified ~~different~~ differently. Mr. Lacy, and his wife, have been stationed at Gold Hill for the last year and a-half, except for the winter months, when they stay at the Chuchupate Ranger Camp. Even though Mr. Lacy had been ordered to report condor sightings he knew nothing of the present condor study.

Mr. Lacy thought he noticed that any condor, he had noted, of late, that were approaching him, upon seeing him, would turn about and go the opposite direction from ~~that~~ ^{which} they ~~were~~ coming.

When Mr. Lacy first went to work for the U.S. Forest Service, about one and one-half years ago, he was sent to the Thorn Point Lookout for a week. He saw condor while there, and became able to identify them there. He said that the man who stayed at Thorn Point lookout last year (1962) had a list of condor observations he kept for himself, but that he was not ordered to keep any condor records for the Forest Service at that time. He said all his condor sighting reports on the Alamo Mountain area, within the last month, will be sent into the Chuchupate Office every month.

Mr. Lacy said he saw a large black bird in Hungry Valley two weeks ago that was much larger than a Golden Eagle. He said he was not aware that young condor do not have a red head nor much white under the wings at some stages.

California Condor Eben McMillan

5 November 1963

I put my bed down last night on the Tejon flats out from the mouth of Pastoria Canyon. Coyotes were heard calling during the early morning hours. It was cloudy at sunrise and a south wind was blowing. Showers were falling in the Mt. Pinos and Tecuya Peak areas. Cowboys had worked a herd of cattle yesterday in a fence corner about one-half mile north of Pastoria Corral and in the field that runs along the foothills to Tunis Canyon from this corner. Two young cows, with milk running from their swollen teats, were standing in a fence corner adjacent to the field where they were worked yesterday. Evidently they had been gathered and put into this strange field without knowledge that their young calves were hidden somewhere in the foothills of the field from which these cows were taken yesterday. One wonders if these cows will be discovered and returned to ~~the~~ their calves before it is too late.

At one time within the last hundred years Valley Oaks (*Quercus lobata*) grow along the water courses that march from the ~~foothills~~ main mountain mass, of the Tehachapi mountains, down through the low foothills before spreading out on the flats below. The gaunt remains of these trees can still be seen standing dead or lying prone in various stages of decomposition. No new valley oak can be found growing anywhere and only a few scraggly adult trees mark their former range near the upper areas close to the mountains. Tunis Canyon does have several of these oak following its course down about one-half mile from where it leaves the main mountain mass. Most natives blame this lack of trees, of this variety, on less rainfall in recent years. I doubt this is the case. Livestock now destroy every seedling of valley oak that germinates. With no new trees coming on and the life-span of

Good -
not used

California Condor

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This species probably limited to less than two hundred years, the stand soon thins out until none remain. From my observations, unless valley oak are replanted, or allowed to germinate and grow without cattle grazing them, or being plowed under in the farmers fields, valley oak are to become a rare species of tree in central California.

A Golden Eagle circled up out of Tejon canyon above where Old headquarters stands and after gaining considerable elevation sailed off to the East.

I found a young red-tailed hawk that had been shot recently with a shotgun, on a point about one mile above the Eucalyptus grove, southwest of Old Tejon Headquarters. This hawk was near the road that leads from Old Tejon Headquarters to the Bedart Property on the ridge southeast of that point.

The remainder of this day, or until four o'clock, was spent in the flat country out from Pastoria Corral watching. At 1:40 P.M. a Golden Eagle circled up high above the Ostich Farm area and then sailed out to the Northwest.

At 5:00 P.M. I stopped in Bakersfield, California at the home of Henry R. McKenzie whose son Gilbert (Gib) works as a buckaroo on the Tejon Rancho, and who was born in the canyon behind Old Tejon Ranch Headquarters in the year 1778. I have been misspelling the McKenzie name prior to this page. I was mis-informed or misunderstood Gib McKenzie when I first met him thinking that he told me he spelled his name McKensie. This now stands to be corrected.

Henry McKenzie told me that condors were quite common on the Tejon Ranch, and adjoining areas, when he was a young fellow. He remembers seeing a dead condor that someone had shot many

⇒
correction.

HISTORY
Shot Condor

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years ago. He thinks this new squirrel poison has killed the condor off. He remembers when they first commenced poisoning squirrels with strychnine baited wheat, or barley, condor followed the poisoning crews about and would be strung out behind them feeding on the dead squirrels. About 20 years ago, some men by the name of Harris, were supposed to have found the egg of a condor in Tecuya, or Salt Canyons, to the west of the Grapevine Canyon.

Henry McKenzie remembers when there were lots of sheep on the Tejon Ranch. A man by the name of Pete Miller was sheep boss. He used to ride about the Ranch property carrying food and other necessities to the shepherds, who were mostly Indians. He said his father was a cattle boss ~~for~~ for General Beal and at one time or another moved his family to all parts of the ranch. As a young lad Henry McKenzie lived at La Liebre Rancho, The Fort (Fort Tejon), White Wolf, and in the canyon behind old Tejon Ranch Headquarters, where his father took up a homestead that is still held by Mr. McKenzie. He thinks that a cycle of dry years has held all of central California in a grip for the last thirty years. He thinks this drought is what is responsible for the Valley Oaks dying out on the Tejon Rancho.

California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

6 November 1963

Rain fell during the early morning hours and was continuing at daylight so I put my bed in the pickup which I had parked out on the flat to the North of highway 466 ~~and~~ about one mile East and one mile North of Edison, Kern County, California just evening after I had left the home of Henry McKenzie. I drove to Cantil on the Mojave desert and had breakfast in the rain as showers were also falling out there. Louie Yribarren, the ~~foreman~~^{foreman} for M and R. Sheep Company, at Cantil, said he did not think that Condor ever come to the alfalfa fields at Cantil to feed on the numerous sheep that die there, there being upwards to ten thousand sheep on the alfalfa fields, there, in lambing season; which by the way is just now getting into full force. Louie stated that Buzzards remain around the alfalfa fields at Cantil all year around. I saw no Buzzards about this area today but the inclement weather could have had a discouraging effect on them today.

Louie Yribarren went into detail to describe to me the problem they have at Cantil with hunters during the dove ~~season~~^{season}. He said they actually swarm over the place, knock down fences, tramp through crops and shoot everything in sight. Mr. Yribarren feels this is the fault of the Fish and Game Department who are only interested in making arrests for infringements of the Game laws, and never bother to enforce trespass, or damage laws. He thinks that the State Fish and Game Department should acquire tracts of land on which hunting could be managed and make the hunting public support their own shooting preserves rather than turning them loose on private landowners who have nothing to gain and everything to lose from the experience.

Condor

- food -

unters problem

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Yribarrin thinks it not only bad for the Private Landowners this unregulated hunting fiasco, but he thinks it develops in people a general disrespect for law and order among everyone associated with this movement, that is not good for the country in general. He is going to try and stop all hunting on the property under his care, next year, and will demand of the Fish and Game Department that they put officers in the field to help him ward off this rush of people whom he feels are the direct result of this department's attitude of encouraging hunting without due consideration of the problems it develops.

At 12:20 P.m. a lone Buzzard was seen, winging its way westward into a stiff west wind, over the town of ~~Tehachapi~~^{Tehachapi} California. Water was rushing down the streets of Tehachapi from a hard rain shower that had hit this area a few minutes before my arrival. This Buzzard seemed to be headed for Bear Mountain.

Showers continued across the San Joaquin valley and three quarters of an inch of rain had fallen at home when I arrived there at 3:30 P.m.

California Condor Eben McMillan

8 November 1963

IAN and I left for Berkeley and M.V.Z. at 5:00 A.M. with the two Condor carcasses, specimens NO. 4 and 11 in the back of my pickup. arriving at the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 9:30 A.M. We went to the office of Dr. Alden H. Miller who after discussing the general progress of the Condor survey with us, then advised that we bring the Condor carcasses into the Museum and turn them over to Ward Russell who will undertake to investigate the remains for any clue as to why they died. This we did.

We lunched with Starker Leopold who later helped us locate the Notes taken by Carl B. Koford during his study of Condor in the late 1940's, and later. We worked with these Notes until 3:30 P.M. when we then looked over five Condor study skins that are in the collection of M.V.Z. trying to work out some clue that we could use in order that we can positively identify some age group of Condor especially among large flocks. We thought that the dark color of the mandibles, especially the lower one would be a good clue to follow up in the hopes it would identify birds less than a year out of the nest. We will have ^{do} more skin comparison in order to follow this lead on to see if it holds up in all study skins. The length of the center toe is less in young birds as we learned from the M.V.Z. skins. In doing more walking and climbing a young bird before it leaves the nest wears the toes down quite blunt especially the center one. This center toe, ~~becomes~~ or talon, becomes long and sharp in the adult birds. Also the neck feathers on young birds that have just left the nest are more soft and fluffy than is the case in the—

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adults whose neck feathers develop into sort of bristles or wire-like objects. The white coloration under the wings of a Condor is a poor object to use in trying to establish any exact age group for this does seem to vary a good deal from bird to bird of the same age group. Of course we could not study the color development on the neck of the two young birds in the collection for the Ring-neck^{age} of the living immature Condor seems to fade out after death. As a Condor becomes older its upper mandible becomes more hooked and horn-like and the lower mandible shortens and becomes blunt and Ivory like. That is Ivory both in color and in texture.

We left M.V.Z. at 4:30 p.m. and were home at 9:50 p.m.

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13 November 1963

A storm was in the making as I drove to Cantil, via Tehachapi, and clouds were gathering in the higher mountains - light showers fell as I drove up the Tehachapi ~~to~~ grade. a ground fog covered the lower 100 feet of the San Joaquin valley, and above that, a smog condition prevailed up to the 3500 foot elevation. The Tehachapi mountains were clear - The desert had smog or ~~the~~ ^{blue} haze at the lower elevations.

I visited the sheep lambing grounds of M. & R. Sheep Company at Cantil, in Kern County, but saw only Raven and a lone Red-Tailed hawk. No soaring birds seen. In the El Paso mountains I watched a Red-Tailed hawk moving southward at fairly high altitude. Strong cross winds and unstable air was causing this hawk to tack and weave its way along slowly in passing the point, in Iron Canyon, that is about six miles north of Garlock, Kern County, California.

From watching birds in flight, over this desert area, I would think that any large bird would, were it ~~be~~ acquainted with conditions in the area, steer clear of the east slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains at the time when foul weather would be brewing. Strong, gusty, and turbulent winds are a characteristic of this country during stormy weather.

at 8:30 a.m. as I drove down the Bitterwater valley from home I saw ⁴⁰ ~~40~~ plus Curlew fly up from a flat on the east side of the road about 5 miles below the Standard Oil Company Pumping Station in the Bitterwater valley and fly across the road in front of me, then scatter and appear to alight in a barren field about one-half mile west of the road. This field from whence they flew up from and the one they appeared to alight in are bare of any vegetation having been badly overgrazed during last spring.

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14 November 1963

It was calm at the lower elevations on the east side of the Sierra Nevada range at sunrise in the area about Salt Lake in Kern County, California. The sky above was clear but storm clouds could be seen hovering above the high Sierran peaks.

At 8:30 A.M. when crossing from Jaw Bone Canyon over into Kelso valley strong west winds were blowing. Recent rains had sprouted grasses and in some places plants were blooming and already developing seed. I spent some time in Kelso valley and in the Kelso Creek drainage but saw no large birds flying - It remained windy in the passes until 3:00 P.M. when I left the area and headed west. Rain commenced falling just as I arrived home at 5:30 P.M.

Few mammals were noted on the desert and in the Kelso valley area - Jack Rabbits appeared scarce and Rat signs were lacking - A heavy rainfall that had occurred some months back, probably on or about August 7 or 8 of 1963, did considerable washing throughout the east slope of the Sierras from Tehachapi northward to Walker Pass. I suppose this drowned many small mammals as well as those like Rabbits and squirrels - Erosion ditches are everywhere as a result of this flood and great amounts of granite soil was carried down from the mountains and deposited in the lower areas. These conditions must be hard on all wildlife.

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california condor

Eben McMillan

25 November 1963

CRANES
A brisk east wind was blowing and fog filled the San Joaquin valley to the 1800 foot level as Ian and I left for the Sespe area at 9:30 A.M. via the Carrisa plains. Four sandhill cranes were seen in Don Lewis stubble field that is about two miles northwest of Carrisa plains school. They were standing close together and seemed nervous as they watched us pass. Two small flocks of cranes were seen flying over the brush flats of California Valley Development.

CRANES
We stopped and chatted with Bob Werling and Murphy Chaney who were feeding cattle on west side of ~~soda~~ Lake but in front of the Dewey Werling Ranch. Asking them about sandhill cranes they told us that not many cranes had come to remain in the area of the Carrisa plains due to the shooting that goes on about the soda lake area. No sooner had they told us this than several shots were heard coming from across the soda lake in a southeasterly direction. Both Bob Werling and Murphy Chaney as well as Dewey Werling who came along as we were talking, expressed much concern regarding this shooting that they think, if it continues, will lead to someone getting shot. These people feel quite sure that sandhill cranes are shot at continually when on the ground or in the air. Dewey Werling told us that these people who come to shoot are mostly from Los Angeles, or that general area, and come to the Carrisa plains to shoot because they are not allowed to shoot in most places in Los Angeles county.

CRANES
we saw a ~~flock~~ flock of about 1000 cranes on the flat out in front of Painted Rock, that is about two miles southwest of the southeast end of soda lake. Some of these cranes were

California condor

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flying from the large flock that were standing in the stubble field to a pool of water that had collected at the edge of the road on which we were traveling during the last rain of 4 or 5 days ago. About 150 cranes were gathered about this pool and took flight as soon as we approached within two hundred yards^{of} them.

The cranes that have wintered on the Carrisa plains for as long as people can remember spend the nights standing out in the middle of the Soda Lake when it is dry or standing in shallow water in one of the many arms of this lake when water collects here in seasons of heavy rainfall. They have always, in the past, spent the mid-day hours standing in the sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) that surrounds the Soda Lake for some distance out on both ends and along the east side. The west side of Soda Lake where the County road runs rather close to the shore has only a narrow band of this shrub. This ^{shooting} has only become a problem since California Valley Development came into being, has nullified this shrub area as daytime loafing area^{for} and has caused much disturbance to the cranes.

Some smog was drifting into the southern end of the Carrisa plains via the Elkhorn valley and Maricopa. The Coyama valley was clear. Quail hunters were ~~packed~~ parked along the highway or up in canyons that lead down into the Coyama valley as well as along the route through the Santa Lucia mountains and down the Sespe river before highway 399 crosses out of the Sespe and enters the North fork of the Ventura river drainage. We stopped at the top of the grade before dropping down into the Ventura river drainage and photographed the accumulation of cans, broken glass and ammunition cases and boxes that are along the road that turns off highway 399 at the top of Dry Lakes Ridge and passes over into Rose valley and the

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California Condor

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sespe river drainage. I am Took photographs of this situation that was being added too by a man and woman who had parked their automobile at the edge of this dirt road and were in a draw, about 50 yards from this road shooting at cans and bottles while consuming bottles of beer,^{as} each were so doing in between shots. The short draws that come down into the ~~the~~ drainage that follows this road eastward are literally filled with broken glass and cans of all sort that have been shot through so many times that even some of the cans are severed into separate parts. No signs are in evidence that would tend to warn anyone that this practice was not lawful, nor is there any effort made by ~~any~~ anyone, or any agency of the Government, to clean this mess up that is not only an eye-sore but also contributes to unregulated shooting in an area where Condor are frequently known to pass such as the line of flight from ^{Thorn} ~~Thorne~~ Point to Toga Topa ridge and Hines Peak.

We stopped in ~~Fillmore~~ @jai at the U.S. Forest Service station and were told by a Mr. ^{Righetti} ~~Righetti~~ who resides on the grounds ^{of U.S. Forest Service,} that Mr. Parkensen was not in, he availed Mr. ~~the~~ Righetti of our plans to go up on Hopper rim from the Spring Canyon trail, and ^{then} drove to Fillmore, where we stopped and checked at the home of Jack Gains, whom we were told, by his wife, ~~that~~ was working and would not be back at the house until after 5:00 PM. We made our plans known to Mrs. Gains with the knowledge that she would tell him of such when he returned from work in the evening, and made our way up Sespe Valley along the Wildlife Area Corridor road.

There was evidence along the Sespe Valley road where it passes through the area where the recent fire, of this fall, had burned that the last rain had brought great amounts of aggregate down from the burned area onto this road. A D-8 Bulldozer had been engaged in clearing this ~~the~~ accumulation from the roadway so that vehicles could traverse the

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roadway. In some of the defiles leading down from the burn this aggregate had choked the drainages whereby it had accumulated on the roadway to a depth of four feet as was evidenced by the bank left at the mouth of these defiles on the upper, or bank side, of the roadway, when the bulldozer had cleaned all this material from the roadway and pushed it off into the canyon below. Little or no aggregate had been washed down defiles or draws that came from areas above the roadway where the fire had not burned.

As we topped the ridge before dropping down on the roadway, into Tar Canyon, we met two youths of their late teens or early twenties, who were parked in an old model car on the wide strip that has been so constructed, whereby, large vehicles could pass at this spot, or could park to let other vehicles pass. We asked if they knew Jack Garis or had seen him up this way. They said they did not know Mr. Garis nor had they seen anyone in a Forest Service vehicle on this road. Upon being asked if they were hunting the young fellow at the wheel of this ~~Starting~~ old model car told us that they were just "plinking". By, plinking, we assumed he meant shooting at nothing in particular. We then asked him if it was ^{all right} ~~all right~~ and permissible, for us to shoot anywhere up this road and were told, by the lad at the wheel of the car, that as far as he knew that it was O.K.. Both said they were from Fillmore. I asked them if deer season was still open and they replied that they didn't know, but that archery season was probably still open. Neither of these young fellows mentioned having any knowledge of the Condor Refuge.

Before meeting the two young fellows mentioned above, we had stopped at the Oak Flats Camp of Vis. Forest Service in the Sespe drainage and there came upon Jack Edwards and Red Dunlap of the Twilight Oil Company that

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operates an oil lease in the area to the southeast of Dough Flat, just beneath the west scarp of Hopper Rim, and at the foot of Spring Canyon trail. These two men, who operate this Twilight Oil Company, were in the process of loading ~~the~~ two floor sections that had formally been the flooring for Tents here at Oak Flats station. They told us that Jack Gains had given them the two sections of flooring. G and I helped these two fellows load these two sections of flooring and joists, that were each about 14 feet long and 9 feet wide, onto their truck. They told us of seeing three condor over their Spring Canyon lease yesterday and ^{at least,} one the day before. These were the first condor they had seen for more than a month. They also told us that a new oil well was spudding in in the Tar Canyon area and that another new location was being considered north of their lease.

We drove on up the Corridor road to Squaw flats to see if any automobiles were in that area. Not seeing any late tracks on the road we returned to a little flat about 100 yards north of the Iron Gate that is kept locked and is used by the Twilight Oil Company to drive into their lease at the head of Spring Canyon, we left our pickup here and with packs on our backs commenced following this road that will take us to the foot of the Spring Canyon trail. After we had gone about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along this roadway Mr. Edwards and Mr. Dunlap came along in their truck and gave us a ride on into their camp that is located about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of the foot of the Spring Canyon trail, that is where it breaks down off the main scarp of Hopper Rim and enters more gentle rolling canyons. After visiting briefly with these men at their camp we continued on our way up the Spring Canyon trail. A large Stag deer was seen working its way through the thick Chaparral -

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Track

brush just across the canyon from us as we entered the steep climb of the spring canyon trail. We saw this, stags tracks in the damp ground where it, or another large deer, had come down this trail from the top of the ridge just after the last rain. A lion track also was formed in this trail, coming down also, about the same time after the last rain.

Swifts
flying

Wind

We reached the Top of Hopper Rim about 30 minutes before sunset. The area along the coast, the Islands of the Santa Barbara Channel and all mountainous areas were extremely clear and free of smog. A very strong wind was blowing over this rim from the east. White-throated Swifts that were all passing up over this rim heading northeast were able to pass onward, into this blast, with little ~~trouble~~ ~~trouble~~ trouble seeming to roll through the strongest currents that were developing at the very crest of the rim from ^{volumes} ~~large~~ of air rushing up out of Hopper Canyon and compressing at the top of the ridge. This rolling motion gave the appearance of a swimmer (human) doing ^{one} of the crawl strokes & only the birds (Swifts) would make up to five or six wingbeats during the time they would be tipped over to one side or the other. These Swifts would come over the pass about 50 or 100 feet high (above the crest). There were more than 100 passed by the station where we stood in about 20 minutes. Later as the sun was setting Swifts were joined by Robins coming from the Sespe over into Hopper Canyon. The Robins also did well against the strong wind but they would drop down into Hopper Canyon as soon as they topped the Hopper rim at ^{tree-} ~~tree-~~ top height.

Birds

A ~~thorough~~ thorough check was made of any roosting areas—

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Hopper Canyon

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~~Condor~~ of Condors in the "Big Cave" area of Hopper Canyon, but no roosting Condor could be seen. Just at sunset a good light was available to see into the Big Cave area.

A Buzzard (turkey vulture) was seen beating its way northward along the east slope of Hopper rim, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ way down the ridge to the canyon below, heading toward roosting areas in the upper reaches of Hopper Canyon.

A Red-tailed Hawk hunted until dusk out over the East slope of Hopper rim directly across the canyon from the Big Cave. This hawk would remain nearly motionless as it buoyed itself upon the gale winds. It was not seen to dive into the thick chaparral brush, but on several ^{occasions} ~~occasions~~ lowered itself down as if awaiting some prey species to come more out in the opening of some area where the brush was not so thick.

We put our robes down in the lee-side of thick manzanita shrubs and slept with complete protection from the high wind that ~~was~~ tagged throughout the night.

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Dawn broke clear and without fog or smog of any sort in the lowlands and no dew formed on our sleeping robes. White-throated Swift were about at sunrise and the gale wind, that had raged throughout the night began to abate somewhat, but was still blowing very strongly. Ian said he saw a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons pass over soon after sunrise. Robins - Towhees and White Crown Sparrows were passing eastward over the Hopper Rim.

The Red-tailed hawk was back again soon after sunrise buoyed on the still wind, hunting the thick covered chaparral ~~slopes~~ ^{slopes} of Hopper ~~Peak~~ Rim.

At about 8:10 A.M. we (Gan and I) parted. He going along the rim towards Hopper Mountain to check on further developments along the roadway that had been improved and broadened from Hopper Mountain or the North end of Hopper Mountain, where the Pole Canyon Road comes up and tops out on Hopper Rim, to the pass at the head of the Spring Canyon Trail, where this roadway had been extended and improved upon, over the dim old roadway that was there up until this fall; I going north from our night's camp at the end of this road towards ~~Whiteacre~~ ^{Whiteacre} Peak.

At about 8:30 A.M. I saw one ^{Adult} Condor coming northeast from the East side of the top of Hopper Mountain - This bird crossed out over the center of Hopper Canyon and then commenced letting down in stages heading in the general direction of the Canyon bottom below the Big Cave in Hopper Canyon. After this bird went down below the level of the headlands that confront the Hopper Creek on the east side about 1/2 mile down Canyon from the Big Cave I lost sight of it. About 8:40 A.M. while searching the area with the scope I saw a condor coming up out of the Canyon over an area

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about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of where Hopper Creek proper and the creek coming from The Big Cave converge. The bird was about 300 yards high when I first saw it. It soon sailed upward and drifted out towards the west, and Hopper Mountain, and passed from view dropping behind Hopper Mountain.

At 8:45 A.M. I saw four condor coming my way passing along the crest on the East slope of Hopper Mountain. As these four condor came on past Hopper Mountain about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile one was seen to turn east and pass out above the Hopper Canyon. The other three condor continuing on towards me. These three condor passed out to the east of me about 400 yards and at this point circled several times. All three were identified as adults. As they continued on their way two of the three condor that circled out in front of me flew on northeast while the other bird dropped down into Hopper Canyon and passing over the outcropping $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of The Big Cave, circled upward, passed on out southeast and was last seen circling east of the divide between Hopper Canyon and Piru Canyon at a point about due east of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Big Cave.

I now walked southwest along Hopper Rim to a point where the road cuts around the east face of a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Koford's Lookout Point and here met Jan who said he had seen only three of the condor. He said that the road was passable all the way down and that even a late model touring car would have no problem in negotiating it to its end at the pass where spring canyon trail hits the top of Hopper rim. Jan said that no other places were as wide as the two spots, one at the very end near Pemberton Rock and another area about 50 yards back towards the south from the end that had been widened out where it would accommodate 8 or 10 automobiles at one time. —



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As we sat here talking a condor was seen rising up out of Hopper Canyon directly across from us. This bird moved across towards Hopper Mountain, but keeping somewhat south of us, and moved out to the southwest and out of sight at 10:19 A.M.

We returned to our campsite and packing up were off down the trail at ~~11:15~~ 11:15 A.M. We decided that a more thorough check of Hopper Canyon should be made soon in order to double check on any chance that Condor could be nesting there.

At 11:34 A.M. as we were passing down the Spring Canyon Trail we saw four Condor heading north along the east slope of the Top of Hopper Mountain. I saw two birds, of this four, circle and appear to go southeast. Two more were seen following the same route two minutes later. Due to the location we were in we could not follow these Condor after they passed by the Hopper Mountain proper for another promontary then cut our view off from view of the east exposure of Hopper rim.

We hiked on down Spring Canyon Trail and found Red Dunlap at the Twilight oil camp and already with the two sections of flooding under their tent. Mr. Dunlap told us that there are lots of Deer in the area about their camp and that both he and Jack Edwards had ~~each~~ each shot nice big four-point Bucks this fall during deer season. He said that Does and fawn and small Bucks are seen along the roadways regularly; and they are not wild or nervous.

He told us about how a Condor had circled close within 50 feet of them three years ago as they were working on a well in Spring Canyon. Mr. Dunlap said this Condor circled high above them for some time, then came closer and closer

no condor

4 condor

-Condor-

Condor

vulnerable

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Imm -

until it was down^{down} in the bottom of the canyon where they were working and when gaining altitude to get out of the canyon this bird had to pump its wings. The revealing point of this observation was when Mr. Dunlap said that they were so close to it that they could see its black beak and black head as it looked down and sideways in sizing them up. This was ample evidence that this was the case of another young condor coming within easy gunshot of a human being.

Mr. Dunlap then told us of the road building operation that is going on about 1/2 mile north of his camp where a company who have about 3000 acres of the wildlife refuge leased for oil exploration, a territory running all along the foothills just immediately under the west scarpment of Hopper rim as far north as Whiteacre peak and even beyond to ~~the~~ the pothole area in the Agua Blanca Canyon have only until December 1, 1963 to complete assessment work that is supposed to be drilling operations. These people have obtained rights to pass up the road used by the Twilight Oil Company from the Iron Gate near where we left our pickup, and then north ~~to the~~ through the private property of the Twilight Oil Company to a spot under the scarp and at the boundary of the Condor refuge. A D-8 Bulldozer belonging to a Mr. Warren of Pilo had completed this road to the refuge boundary and was now waiting for permission from the Forest Service to continue on into the Refuge with the road so that a site could be constructed and a Drilling rig brought in and

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a well spudded in before the deadline of their lease. It seems that these people had been so confident of getting permission to enter the refuge at this point that they had gone ahead with the constructing of this road for the last four days, before knowing if they would be granted permission to enter the refuge or not. Just from the outside it would appear that nothing has ever happened in the past whereby any opposition has been known to come when demands are made to enter the refuge with a roadway, or else, these people have been informed by someone that permission ~~was~~ was already forthcoming.

we hiked on towards the pickup and arriving at the place where the newly constructed roadway met the private ~~the~~ roadway of the Twilight Oil Company we found a D-8 Caterpillar Bulldozer and an International Tractor of some smaller size also with a Bulldozer Blade on it parked where this new road takes off. The fellow who operates the D-8 Cat. was overhauling the clutch on the power unit. He told us that he had seen quail around the flat near where we were on several ~~occasions~~ ^{occasions} but that he had not gotten any yet. He had put a quail up yesterday along the new road he was building but he missed it. He also told us that he has asked permission of Mr. Edwards and Mr. Donlap to hunt on their property but that his request had been denied; but these men had told him he could hunt along the road coming in. Much of this road would be in the Condor refuge and is posted. —

shooting

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Evidently Edwards and Dunlap have no respect for the signs nor for the law prohibiting shooting along a public road or on a Wildlife Refuge. One wonders if any effort is ever made to acquaint these people with the responsibility they have when using ~~the~~ the public roads leading through the Condor Refuge. This Tractor operator voiced no concern over the fact that the Forest Service had not yet issued permission for him to enter the Wildlife Refuge with his road building operation. I said that he would probably have ample opportunity to get shooting when he was pushing the road construction on out into the Condor Refuge. To this he ~~at~~ only nodded and smiled, but made no mention that shooting, or the possession of firearms, inside the Refuge, was illegal.

Condor →
nervable
This Bulldozer operator had seen no Condor while working here but several years ago he said that while doing some earthmoving on the mountain to the west of the North end of Piute Lake that he saw Condor on several occasions and that at times they came very close to him. He told us that one never realizes how large those birds are until one sees them at a close distance, which is more or less true.

We hiked on to our pickup and left for home via Santa Barbara where we stopped at the Museum of Natural History for any late information they may have picked up relative to Condor happenings. Waldo Abbott told us that a Mr. John Flavin, a Hawk fancier had been to the Carrisa plains and had



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ad Eagle shot.

found the carcass of a dead immature Golden Eagle near the Kern County, San Luis Obispo County line, that had been shot and left near the side of the road. Where Havin had found and buried it.

ad Construction

Waldo Abbott, Cliff Smith and probably other members of the Museum staff, are very much in favor of the proposed highway along the crest of Sierra Madre ridge from Bates Canyon to Santa Barbara Canyon - They feel this will open up an area to many people who otherwise would never be able to see it. Their argument sounds good only that I think before this should be debated that everyone in favor of this roadway should be forced to visit the site at the top of Dry Lakes ridge where the dirt road turns off highway 399 towards Rose Valley. Condor use the Sierra Madre ridge as a flyway - a public road would bring additional hazards to a vanishing species and bring only New Toy benefits to a public who only want new areas to pass over; for any roadway they have used, for any length of time, soon turns into a blighted, defaced passageway, left to others to clean up. The Frazier mountain - Grade valley - Liebre mountain areas are good examples of this. There is enough country blighted by roads now. Let's leave things be until people offer proof that they will appreciate those things. The Forest Service should not be allowed to send their ^{Personnel} ~~Personnel~~ out to clean up behind the public other than to furnish garbage cans for the disposal of such. This must come before new area should be opened up. Perhaps in another later generation this could be done and things remain respectfully; but not now. This thinking is necessary

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a result of my developed concern for Condor. If we are to have Condor someone must make a sacrifice of that, which he already enjoys too much of to appreciate. Our job today is to hold the line in the hopes that new minds, now in the making, will acknowledge these things as responsibilities and place them before conquest, and privilege. Were this type of thinking ever to gain favor, man might step from the jungle far sooner than is now thought possible. Thus we must save!

I must look into the minds of these Santa Barbara Museum people more fully, and find from whence this philosophy comes.

We stopped at the home of Fred Eissler, whom I informed of the coming Sandhill Crane trip to the Carrisa plains on 7 December 1963 and sponsored by the Paso Robles Audubon Society. Eissler's Sierra Club group want to accompany us and had asked that I inform them, but he told us this evening that his group had planned some trip in the Sierra Madre Ridge area to work on some plans they have in mind there. Mr. Eissler was interested in our Condor work as he said he had been notified of the project when it began from Mr. William Hansen, supervisor of Las Padres ~~National~~ National Forest. - Actually we have little information for public consumption. What material we have gathered, so far, has never been formulated, and evaluated, so that trends, that ~~now~~ are appearing, could turn out to have been mis-applied observations that will later reverse themselves. ^{So} ~~so that~~ we feel it best to keep all information in abeyance until completion of the study.



california condor Eben McMillan

3 December 1963

A dense ground fog has filled the southern portions of the San Joaquin Valley for the last three weeks without a let-up. This fog has brought cold damp weather to all areas it covers. But above this fog belt, from 2000 feet on up, the weather has remained clear—calm and reasonably warm. The atmosphere above the fog level has also been very clear of any haze or smog. Some frosts have developed in early morning hours in the Cholame and San Juan river lowlands and ice has been recorded in the lower areas of the Carrisa plains.

I drove to the Cholame Flats, that are north and northwest of the town of Cholame, at 9:00 A.M. New grass that sprouted during the early fall rains is furnishing the Cholame Rancho cattle enough sustenance to keep looking fairly healthy. Howard Jack, Majordomo of Cholame Rancho, told me that he had talked to someone lately that told him of seeing seven condor in some canyon behind Coalinga, in Fresno County. This man gave Mr. Jack the impression that the condor had been seen there several times. He (Mr. Jack) could not remember the person's name who told him of this observation, but he thought he came from the Coalinga area.

Vic Mivens, who rides for the Cholame Ranch told me of seeing four condor in the trees near the old Durham spring that is about 7 miles west of Cholame Ranch Headquarters. Mr. Mivens said these condor moved about in the trees as he passed underneath them on horseback, but that they did not leave. He thought it was about three months ago when he saw these condor.



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Eagle
 at 10:40 A.M. I came upon two adult Golden Eagle that were sitting ~~sitting~~ (standing) on the ground in a draw that was running north from the bottom of the Cholame Valley and about two miles east by southeast from the Cholame Ranch buildings. The two Eagles were facing each other at a distance of about one foot apart and were up this draw about 100 yards from its mouth and about three hundred yards from where I stopped the pickup to watch them. Both Eagles stood without moving for about fifteen minutes except for a casual turning of the heads now and then from the position of watching me which they did most of the time. No prey was in evidence although at one time the smaller bird, which I took to be the male, reached down and pecked at the toes of the larger bird that stood above him on the hillside. Soon, after 15 minutes had passed, the smaller bird walked around above the larger bird and after looking about briefly dropped its head - took four or five ~~hops~~ hops and flew southward across the Cholame Valley. About thirty seconds later the larger bird did likewise, only, it flew along the foothills to the east.

White-tailed Kite
 While watching these Eagles I also saw two White-tailed Kite flying about a weed and alfalfa field that is located on the floor of the Northeast Part of Cholame Valley and about 2½ miles south by southeast from the Cholame Ranch headquarters. At least two Red-tailed Hawks - four Raven and four Marsh Hawk were also observed circling or hunting above this field that covers about 300 acres.

Cholame Valley
 It was warm at the spot near the weed and alfalfa

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field where I saw the Eagles and the Hawks but farther on east about two miles the east wind was blowing a gale and the temperature was cold. Looking back from this place I could see Two Golden Eagles Cieling above the field with the Hawks. At the mouth of the canyon that comes down from the Wallace place that is along the Northeast boundry of the Cholame Ranch Property a great band of Linnets were feeding on the ground and drinking from the stream that comes down this canyon and dissapates into the flat country here. I crudely guessed there to be ten thousand linnets in this flock. These birds were feeding in a compact group that kept moving about all the time by the rear birds flying up to the front in the direction the flock was moving. Now and then a segment of this flock would rise up 30 or 40 feet into the air only to settle down again in a movement much like smoke being blown upward only to drop downward again a few feet away. I walked to within 150 feet of these linnets while they still fed and chirped - I whistled and the compact mass of birds rose up about 40 feet and then settled back on the ground and continued feeding and chirping - a loud shrill whistle now got them all to flight. They now flew up to a good height, circled about in a wide circle, the tag end of the flock appearing like the end of a string that was being snapped like a whip - lower and wider of circle than the leading end of the flock. after a flight of about one -

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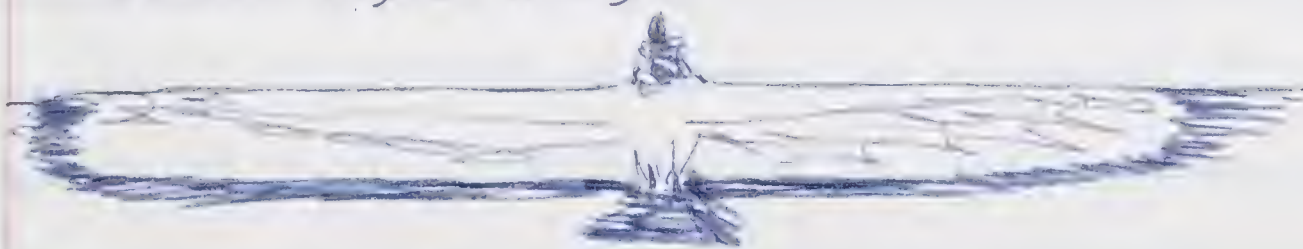
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minute they again settled down in nearly the same spot from which they formally rose and commenced feeding and chirping again. As they all rose into the air following my shrill whistle a fluttering was heard above the whirr of their wings that made me think some were crowding so close together in flight that their wings were hitting.

I drove up Stone Corral Canyon to Stone Corral Flats where I saw another flock of Tinnetts that numbered about 3000 birds. a pair of Golden Eagle that probably were the same birds I saw earlier circled above the Bog-hole spring in Stone Corral flats. I watched these two Eagles circle overhead for some minutes and could see where their wings differ in shape from that of a Condor; for one thing they are ~~more~~ more narrow in relation to the length of the wing than that of a Condor and the wing of an Eagle is wider out at the outer third of the wing than it is at the inner third of the wing. There seems to be a general narrowing of the wing as it meets the body. see below.



Golden Eagle wing



Condor wings

California Condor

Eden McMillan

3 December 1963

Falcon

A Prairie Falcon was observed circling above the Bog-hole Spring at Stone Corral Flat.

No Condor were seen nor did I see any fresh carrion, although Vic Nivens, who rides the range for Cholame Ranch, said there were cattle dying all the time. Very few of the Cholame Ranch cows have calved yet. Vic Nivens said they should be calving heavy about the end of December. This will probably make additional food, of a qualitative nature, for Condor later on. I will commence watching this area more ^{closely} ~~closely~~ now.

Fog from the San Joaquin Valley was standing in the Polonio Pass northeast of Cholame at 12:00 noon and held this depth for the remainder of the day.

Coyote

at 7:30 P.M. the multiple yapping and barking of a Coyote, or Coyotes, was heard from the hill south of my house. Coyotes are slowly returning to this area from whence they have been almost exterminated by squirrel poison and trapping. It might be that people are becoming conscious of ecological balances, or are Coyotes developing a resistance to poisons and traps?

Crane

Four sandhill cranes were also seen flying high, southeastward - above north side of Cholame valley; and a flock of 153 Canada Geese are wintering in a reservoir within 100 yards of the Cholame Ranch Office.

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California Condor.

Eben McMillan

December 10, 1963

Forest Ranger Ed Morse of the Cuyama Office told Jan and Me that reports of Condor sightings ~~have been~~ coming in to his office, from his district, have been getting less and less each year. The last sighting he had record of was from one of his men who had turned in a report of seeing birds near McPherson ^{PK} Lookout on the Sierra Madre Range. This was in November, 1963

Ranger Ed Morse stated that individually, district Forest Service Rangers give consideration to species of animals, on Forest Service lands, other than Game species, but that ~~it~~ ^{it} is not a part of the Forest Service policy. Birds other than Game Birds, are only considered when local conditions give rise to public interest in them; such as a group of bird watchers coming into the area on a field trip -

Three shepherds, who tended flocks of sheep to the east of Cuyama stated that they had not seen Condor this fall. One young herder who had been south of Cuyama last summer when Jan and he watched a young Condor come to eat on a dead sheep, as well as having seen several at one time a few days before this incident, told us that he had seen no more Condor since that date.



California Condor

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11 December 1963

Plumage
I left home at 11:00 AM. and drove eastward across the San Joaquin Valley under a high fog. It was cold. One Mountain Plover crossed the roadway flying westward as I drove near the mouth of Bitterwater Valley. At a spot about five miles east of ~~Famosa~~ ^{Famosa} a flock of Ewes and their lambs were feeding in an alfalfa field north of the roadway and immediately next to the road. A flock of Tricolor and Redwing blackbirds were rising and settling among the sheep. It would be difficult to estimate the total numbers of blackbirds in this flock but a wild guess would be twenty thousand. It was the largest flock of birds I have ever seen concentrated together in one cohesive flock. It was amazing to see them wheel and bank as a unit without one mishap. I photographed this flock and in leaving the area a segment of this flock of birds broke away from the main group and moved off to the Northeast. This segment was flying in a long strung out column that appeared to be about a quarter mile long and could still be seen after they had flown quattering from my line of direction after a had left the area ten minutes.

Blackbirds

Sheep, Ewes and Lambs, were on the hills east of highway 65. Recent rains and moist fog had given this area a good start with the new grass. The young shepherds had not seen condor (two shepherds) but gave every indication that they would be on the watch and keep notes should they see anything similar to a condor in the area.

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Driving towards Granite Station the grass got better the further I went. I stopped at the home of Edna Williams three miles northeast of Granite Station and was told that she had heard no word of Condor having been sighted by anyone of late. From the Edna Williams home I called Mrs. Glenn Record who lives below the Oak Flat Lookout on Rattlesnake Grade and was told that none ~~of her~~ ^{her} family had seen ~~any~~ Condor this winter (since September), even though they had been especially watchful for them, and that for some time, she and her husband, and son, had been busy gathering cattle on the west foothills of Breckenridge Mountain, in November, but had seen no Condor. Even though it was cold and overcast at the home of Mrs. Edna Williams when I was talking to Mrs. Glenn Record on the phone, she informed me that the sun was shining at her home on the South end of Greenhorn Mountain, and that it was warm.

I called Hugh Smith also from Edna Williams home. Hugh had seen no Condor of late nor had he talked to anyone who had seen any. He said that so far, this was the best year for grass he had ever witnessed at this time of year in the Granite Station area in the 70 odd years he has been here. He doubted that Condor ever come ~~in~~ into the Granite Station area in the winter months. He thinks they usually show up in the spring.

I also called Jim Ben Williams who lives two miles north of Edna Williams - Jim Ben had seen no Condor since the last one he reported to me in October to the south of Granite Station when the cow ran it away from her calf. Jim -



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california condor

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Ben also thinks Condor leave the Granite Station area in the winter months and do not show up again until spring. He also thought this one of the best feed years he has seen in many years at this stage of the growth.

Leaving Edna Williams home at 3:00 p.m. I drove to the Warren Stockton Residence where I chatted with Warren and Mrs. Stockton, neither of whom had seen ^{head} ~~tail~~ of Condor. ^{later} Mrs. Stockton was banding White Crowned sparrows that she said were particularly easy to trap today due to the overcast and the cold weather. Making them come to the trap in droves sucking feed. She had just banded a white-crowned-sparrow that had been in her traps in the winter of 1960; or should I say re-banded.

I then drove to the home of Clara Stockton Armstrong and found her at home, but her boy Philip Armstrong from whom I had gotten the Condor remains last month, and Gary Snow, were in Bakersfield. Mrs. Armstrong said that she does not let anyone shoot the Bob-Cats that are on her property—she said she does not think they do any harm to cattle and that she just likes to see them around. According to Mrs. Armstrong no one had seen Condor in ~~the~~ the area of her property for months. She said that she had seen the dead Condor when it lay near the feed-bunk on her place but that she had thought it to be an eagle or the likes. She did not think of it being a Condor.

Mrs. Armstrong answered the phone while I was at her place—

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It was Gary Snow calling from Bakersfield about some business. She mentioned my being there and then let me talk to Mr. Snow when he wanted to know if I had found out any information on the bird remains I had picked up on the Armstrong ranch. In the course of the telephone conversation, after I assured him I had no information yet on the cause of death of the Armstrong Condor - Gary Snow said that he doubted that Condor come into the Granite Station area in the winter time. He could not remember ever having seen Condor in mid-winter.

I left the Granite Station area at 4:30 p.m. and drove to Bakersfield where I called both Pillard Pittman, who attends the West-Breckenridge Ranch area for Jose Mendez and Andy Charlton who watches after the Rankin Property lease of Kenneth Mebaine - Neither of whom had seen Condor.

I drove on to Cantil about 20 miles north of Mojave on highway 6 and camped for the night near the High Power line that runs along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in the ^{Cantil} ~~Ant~~ area. —

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It was down to 20 degrees this morning at Cantil, according to sheep man whom I met in one of the alfalfa fields of M & R. Sheep Company ~~and~~. Many ewes are on the fields at Cantil in the process of lambing - a good percentage of the lambs are on the ground but many are yet to be born. Dead, newborn lambs are scattered all over the place. I saw about six or seven Ravens, in small bunches, scattered throughout the fields feeding on the carcasses of dead lambs. Of the five shepherds and camperos or camp tenders, that I talked with none had seen what he thought could be a condor coming to feed on the sheep, although one fellow thought that a few Buzzards come once in a while to feed at Cantil. I am not yet convinced that condors do not drop in here and would like to get a warm spell when flying conditions were optimum, and stay at Cantil for a whole day and watch. It would be good to know if even Buzzards come here in mid-winter. Another thing I want to do is to get all these men acquainted with pictures of condors and create an interest in them, so that should a condor show up along the east flank of the Sierra Nevada Range that they would recognize them and relay us the fact. Pete Arnetta, a campero now at Cantil for M & R Sheep Company took a photograph of a condor from me and said he would show it to all the shepherds and advise them to be on the lookout for these birds and to report them when seen. Should shepherds have been a problem in shooting condors in the past, which is very probable, the fact that they know people are interested in the birds will tend to minimize further shooting of condors by them.

Pete Arnetta told me he moves along the east flank of the Sierra Nevada Range in late spring ending up around Mono Lake in the

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late summer and returning to Cantil in October and November. He did not come to Cantil with the sheep until early November this year.

I left Cantil at 9:00 A.M. and drove to Rosamond in the Antelope Valley area of Southern Kern County. Northwest of Rosamond I checked with a camper and shepherd who were tending a flock of m & R sheep that were on alfalfa pasture. This camper told me that two flocks of sheep, belonging to Mendelburg, were pasturing on grass in the Cottonwood Creek area along the road going into the Tehachapi mountains, enroute to White Oak Lodge. This camper, a Mr. Jose Aleman had seen condor lately feeding on sheep belonging to the flock of ~~one of these flocks~~ ^{the White Oak herder.} These two

fellows had seen no condor near Rosamond. They seemed quite sure that the birds they saw in Cottonwood Canyon were condor and gave a very good description of the way the birds would circle in the air, vuelta-vuelta - and show the white under the wings.

I left these two shepherds, with their flock of lambing ewes, many of the lambs were dying also in the process of birth, and drove towards Cottonwood Canyon. At the west end of Rosamond Street, or boulevard, a distance of about twelve or fourteen miles west of the town of Rosamond a black sedan was parked off the end of this boulevard about fifty feet and had a sign propped up against the front wheel, on left side of car, that read,

This automobile is school property

No shooting, No tampering with this car.

You are being watched.

A ~~place~~ placard notifying that shooting was not allowed in this area and signed by Sheriff Galyen of Kern County was also

Condor?
not seen

Camper - Rosamond

hooling

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attached to this signboard. I photographed this automobile and signs as well as two mailboxes that were just across the roadway from where the car sat. They were actually honeycombed with bullet-holes in the tin.

I drove to the sheep camp in Cottonwood Canyon and was told by the young herder, who I had chatted with in September and October, when he was camped in the Tehachapi Valley, to the west of the town of Tehachapi, that he had seen *mucho* Pajaro Grande (big birds) on several ^{occasions} ~~occasions~~ within the last two weeks. He said he never saw Condor at Tehachapi, but that he has seen plenty here in Cottonwood Canyon. He said one Condor came and fed on a dead sheep that lay within 50 yards of his trailer-house in which he was working when the bird came—mostly he sees them just circling around above the sheep. He saw four at one time the day before yesterday.

I told this shepherd that I would be back in a week or so and that I wanted him to keep records in writing for me when the Condors came again. He said he would do this for me.

I then drove to the camp of another shepherd who had seen no Condor. This shepherd was an elderly Basque who had been in this country 43 years. He said he had herded sheep for Alexander Galarrini on the Carrisa plains in years past. He said he has seen Condor for many years when herding sheep—He had seen none here in Cottonwood Canyon ^{late} ~~of late~~ but that he saw lots of Condor

Last fall circling above sheep he was attending, on alfalfa, in the Antelope Valley near 110th Avenue on Highway 138 running from Gorman to Lancaster. He said he had never seen Condor come down to eat on dead sheep near his camp here on 110th Avenue, but that ~~many~~ many sheep had died throughout the fall months while he was camped at this location and that Condor could have come down and fed on them without his seeing them do so.

The old shepherd told me that the grass was not growing any during the last few cold days and that another week of this sort of weather would force a movement of the sheep here in Cottonwood Canyon. He thought they would be moved to Tejon Canyon on the west side of the Sierra Nevada mountains if a movement was necessary.

I arrived in Tehachapi at 3:30 p.m. where I looked up the Game Warden Mr. Tharp and found he had only been released from a Bakersfield Hospital five days ago where he had underwent an operation for kidney stones that had kept him off the job for 6 weeks. Mr. Tharp told me of seeing two Condor at the head of Sand Canyon that is about six miles north of Monolith, Kern Co. California. This was on 2 November 1963 -

Mr. Tharp also told me that all the west side of Antelope Valley to the foothills of the Tehachapi mountains from the highway 138 to the Los Angeles ^{aqueduct} ~~aqueduct~~ on 90th Street West, or the Willow Springs Road, thence southwest along the ^{aqueduct} ~~aqueduct~~ for 18 miles is all a closure area to the discharging of firearms - It is in this shooting closure zone that the automobile and the mail boxes I photographed today are located -

Condor?

Condor?

No shooting

P-457

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This is also where I took photos in the past of signs along the Los Angeles aqueduct that were made unreadable by scars of bullet holes.

I drove to Bakersfield by five o'clock from where I called Mrs. Slaytor of the San Emigdio Ranch who told me of having reports of 1 Condor seen by Walter Slaytor in the mountains behind the ranch on 5 November 1963 ^{at 11:00 A.M.} — — One, what Mrs. Slaytor took for a Condor in the Orchard behind the ranch at Noon on November 23, 1963 and yesterday 11, December 1963 Mr. Justinian ^{Cair} ~~Gate~~ reported seeing Two Condor North of the San Emigdio Ranch buildings at 11:00 A.M. — It was cold when I arrived home at 7:00 P.M.

Condor? —

Condor —

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I drove to Ian's home at 7:00 A.M. and immediately thereafter left for Berkeley, riding with Starke, Leopold to Hayward where I transferred to Ian's car, he and May McMillan having ~~then~~ followed us here. Ian and I were at Berkeley and the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 1:00 P.M. We spent the afternoon at this institution discussing our Condor findings with Dr. Alden H. Miller and Carl Buckheiser, President of the National Audubon Society who had come from New York for this meeting as well as a projected meeting with ~~the~~ Wildlife and Range Technicians of the U.S. Forest Service in the Government Building at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning. Bill Goodall accompanied Mr. Buckheiser.

Mr. Buckheiser desired a thorough briefing on all facets of the Condor research project up to the present time due to his ~~not~~ having been on the ground, not having been in a position to discuss these problems and other findings, since the project began, with us or Alden Miller ~~of late~~. Thus the afternoon was so spent.

At 4:30 P.M. Carl Buckheiser, Ian and myself drove to San Francisco and had dinner at the Drake Wilshire Hotel during which time we further briefed Mr. Buckheiser on the Condor research project's findings. Ian and I stayed at this hotel for the night while Mr. Buckheiser left us at 8:00 P.M. for the Pacific Union Club where he was staying during his visit to San Francisco.

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Ian and I were at breakfast with Bill Goodall at 8:00 A.M. At 9:30 A.M. the three of us hiked from our hotel to the U.S. Government Building about 8 blocks distance and met Carl Buckheister and Alden H. Miller at 10:00 A.M. and immediately entered the office of Everett Dolman who is ~~with~~ Wildlife and Range Technician for the U.S. Forest Service in the California area. Mr. Dolman then called in his assistant Mr. William Dasman and the seven of us were in conference until 1:00 P.M.

At the conception of the Sespe Wildlife Refuge in the early 1940's as a means of guiding the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service in any further changes, or developments, relative to management of this refuge and other activities relative to the welfare of Condor, a three man advisory committee was set up that would be comprised of The Director of the University of California, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology — the President of the National Audubon Society and the representative of the U.S. Forest Service whose office would be that which Mr. Everett Dolman now holds. These three persons were to act in an advisory capacity to the District Superintendent of the Las Padres National Forest in any matters relative to the welfare of Condor, or the Sespe Wildlife area, and no ^{human} activity was to be in this Sespe Wildlife area without the matter first coming before this committee for their appraisal. This, as far as could be ascertained, was the first meeting ever held by this committee as well as the first time it had ever concerned itself with the matters it was set up to do. All ~~present~~ members of this committee made note of this ~~deviation~~ ^{dereliction} and each assumed ~~equal~~ equal share in not having maintained more vigilance toward the responsibility inherited with this appointment — with this noted the meeting began —

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Dr. Alden Miller led off with a thorough discussion regarding the matter of right-of-way roads through the Condor Refuge that are in the process of being planned now, as egress into the Sespe River area where a water compoundment, or dam, is proposed on the Sespe River immediately above the north boundary of the wildlife area. A letter had been written to other members of the Sespe Wildlife Area Committee by Mr. Dolman recently concerning this matter and had been put ^{answers} off until this meeting by Dr. Miller and Mr. Buckheiser, so that the problem of Condor preservation could be successfully aired. It was agreed by all three members of the Advisory Committee, with no opposition, that under no condition would they recommend any right of way up the Sespe River drainage to this projected dam site; and that if anything, restrictions would be put into effect by anyone using the corridors now in use and that travel over any portion of these corridors not maintained as a roadway should be closed to all motorized vehicular traffic. Both Mr. Buckheiser and Dr. Miller could be expected to support such a proposal and it was most encouraging to see that Mr. Dolman's concern for the Condor, especially after having been briefed in by Dr. Miller on findings to date by the research team of Ian and I that all signs are now pointing to the fact that ^{Condor} ~~Condor~~ numbers are down from the last appraisal of the population by Carl Kofoed in 1952 and that the birds are in immediate trouble, were most sympathetic and well voiced by him during this discussion. Concern was also ^{entered} ~~evidenced~~ at this point by Dr. Miller relative to recent trail developments on the peripheral areas adjacent to the Sespe Wildlife Area and the opening of these areas ^s to hunting this fall for the first time in twenty odd years such had been -

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done due to the area having been kept inviolate during the Deer hunting seasons by a fire closure that restricted all forms of trespass into the area. None of the Committee objected to keeping this area closed, but thought it would be opened anytime rains eliminated fire hazard during the dry months in the area. Mr. Dasman seemed a bit concerned here and did keep advising Mr. Dolman that hunting should be allowed, or at least could not be restricted, whereby Mr. Dolman would take issue with him that ways could be arranged whereby guns could be restricted in this area by the state or county making a mandate to this ~~effect~~^{effect}. Mr. Buckheiser, in particular, pressed for closing this area to firearms of any sort. He was not opposed in this, except that the others thought more information could ^{be} forthcoming from the present research project that would give more definite information on this subject.

In the matter of recreational activities at the lake which will be formed by the Sespe Dam the matter of making this area into a part of the Sespe Wildlife area was discussed but given little hope of accomplishment - some talk was given regarding restricting firearms about the lake. This also had its problems as some lands that will be adjacent to the Dam-site are in private ownership and cannot be restricted in any way. Mr. Dolman mentioned that perhaps the U.S. Forest Service could purchase or otherwise acquire those parcels of private lands or that perhaps the water developing corporation who will maintain the Dam area would acquire these private holdings through condemnation and would therefore be in a position to act in the best interests of the Condor - these were only ideas tossed out and discussed for future action and thinking.

Mr. Carl Buckheiser then produced a letter that had been written him on 5 December 1963 from Nelson Metcalf, President, Santa Barbara

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Audubon society, in which the problem of Tote-gote or Trail vehicular traffic in the Sespe Wildlife area was brought out and much concern registered by Mr. Metcalf and his group regarding the fact that the Forest Service Ranger who is in charge of the surveillance of the Condor nesting grounds is on the weekend pay-roll of the Harter Ranch Supply Co. of Fillmore, California, which sells Tote Gotes and has other business interests in the area, including a grazing allotment on the sanctuary, which the same ranger has the duty of supervising.

Quite naturally the reading of this letter produced a great deal of concern with Mr. Dolman, he evidently knowing that I must be so and that all parties present, excepting he and Mr. Dasmun were aware of the subject matter in this letter, for he at no time questioned ~~I~~ ^{me} or ~~I~~ regarding the validity of the accusations in this letter, although he knew we had spent a great deal of time in that area and would be thoroughly acquainted with anything of this kind that went on. He did not ask nor did we offer any information on the matter. He did, nevertheless, assure all present that the matter would be gone into immediately. Carl Buckheister registered great concern in this matter for it, coming from one of his own branch societies, was somewhat of an indictment of the parent Audubon society in its handling of the Condor preservation program in the Sespe Wildlife Refuge, especially after Sandy Sprunt has spent a good deal of time on the refuge in company with Mr. Jack Gains within the last two years and Mr. Paul Howard of the El Monte center of Audubon is known to have been closely associated with Mr. Gains for some time. Mr. Buckheister made this fact known and admonished other members-

California Condor

Eden McMillan

17 December 1963

of the advisory Committee of the Need to act now and firmly. All members of the Committee acknowledged equal responsibility and gave every indication that they would act to repair the damage, if any, that Mr. Metcalf brought out in his letter.

From what I have witnessed in the area about, and within, the Sespe Wildlife area, Mr. Metcalf only knows an inkling of what is actually going on there that is directly disastrous to ~~the~~ Condor welfare. He made no mention of the promiscuous use of firearms that we have found so prevalent in that area, nor did he mention the fact that all officials of the Ojai and Santa Barbara districts of the U.S. Forest Service admittedly know that Jack Garis is working for this Harter Ranch Company and is actively promoting the use of motorized trail vehicles within the forest service ~~personnel~~ personnel).

There is reason to wonder how both Mr. Dolman and Mr. Dasman, whose very job encompasses the matter of wildlife management on the Los Padres National Forest, could be so poorly informed on matters relating to the welfare of a vanishing or very rare species of animal. Should this information become public knowledge there is every reason to believe that people would join forces, much as has happened in the case of the Mountain Lion in California, and that the U.S. Forest Service would be at a loss to defend themselves in this matter.

The meeting ~~adjourned~~ adjourned at 1:00 P.M. after which - Dr. Miller, Carl Buckheiser, Bill Goodall ^{Jan and I} ~~and I~~ all returned to our hotel and had lunch after which we immediately left for our prospective homes, or places of business.

I would judge today's meeting as most constructive and well performed.



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California Condor

Eben Mcmillan

18 December 1963

NO condor

It was cold as I drove to Cholame Rancho at 10:00 A.M. After questioning 411 personnel I could find no one who had seen condor of late.

The grass throughout the countryside is turning brown and shows the effects of the cold weather and the lack of rain. I drove out to the northeast and up ridge to west of Red Rock Spring Canyon to the north boundary of the Cholame Rancho property and stopped many times along the way to search the sky for large birds - One Ferruginous Roughlegged Hawk was perched on an electric line pole about two miles south of Cholame Ranch headquarters and four marsh hawks were seen flying about above the alfalfa fields in the flats two miles southeast of Cholame Ranch headquarters; and Raven were seen from time to time. Otherwise, no large birds could be found.

Ward

Two small flocks, and one immense one, of Linnets were feeding along the north side of the Cholame valley, the largest of which was on the foothills to the east of the mouth of Rock Corral Canyon.

Linnets

Aldo Abbott
letter

Condor

A letter received from Waldo Abbott of the Museum of Natural History at Santa Barbara stated that he saw one Condor on December 3, 1963 flying upstream along San Juan River at the point where highway 178 crosses the San Juan River and known as the La Panza Bridge area. Mr. Abbott noted that the bird was about 500 ft. high and was seen at 1:30 P.M.

California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 ~~th~~ December 1963

I received, in the mail from the Las Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club, a mimeographed account of future dates for field trips of this group, as well as accounts of events that had taken place and projects of special interest in the field of conservation. One of the notations was a review of an inspection trip that several members of this chapter had accompanied that included ~~the~~ officials of the Santa Barbara Chapter of Sierra Club - officials of the U.S. Forest Service, members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, and other interested personnel, interested in conservation, and orderly use of Natural Resources. This trip was to look over the proposed public road that is planned and ready for construction by the U.S. Forest Service that will travel along the Crest of the Sierra Madre Mountains to the west of the Coyama Valley where no public road now goes. This mimeographed account of this trip mentioned that on December 7, 1963 when this trip was taken, that a Condor was observed flying along this area, known as the Sierra Madre Ridge and which area is being vigorously defended from development for public vehicles by both the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Sierra Club and Santa Barbara Audubon Society on the grounds that it will serve its best purpose by being left undeveloped. One of their strong arguments ~~is~~ against development of this area is that the Sierra Madre Ridge is used as a ~~flight~~ ^{flight} ~~pattern~~ ^{pattern} for California Condor and the opening of this area to public usage would bring in the irresponsible element with their guns with which they shoot all living objects and ~~inanimate~~ ^{inanimate} objects as well - To this I ~~would~~ ^{would} agree.



California Condor

Eben McMillan

30 December 1963

Received the ^{card} ~~letter~~ that I had left attached to the automobile with all the gunshot marks on it, at the end of Rosamond Boulevard, in the western part of the Antelope Valley, in southern Kern County, California, on 12 December 1963. This card was signed by a Mr. L. H. Miller, who lives three miles up the dirt road at the station and stated that the car in question was shot where his children leave it, not once, but three times this year.

I have photographs of this automobile and want to go by and visit this Mr. Miller at the station some time and get more information from him on the irresponsibility of the gun bearing public.

This card is filed in the letter file and is postmarked Mojave, California Dec. 17, 1963, 1 PM.

Also a letter in mail today from Jack Malouf & associates, 99 East San Jose Street, Burbank, California - that enclosed a duplicate of a Bill for Cattle shot: This is the letter referred to, and the cattle shot, which Mr. Cory ^{Ellingbo} ~~Ellingbo~~ of Gorman, Calif. discussed at length with me on the evening of 4 November 1963 and which discussion is included in my notes of that date. This letter is filed in letter file of condor material and is dated December 20, 1963, Jack Malouf and associates 99 East San Jose Street, Burbank, California, and is addressed to Department of Fish and Game - 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California.

Shooting

Shooting Cattle

2059.18

